Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
XVIII

Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO

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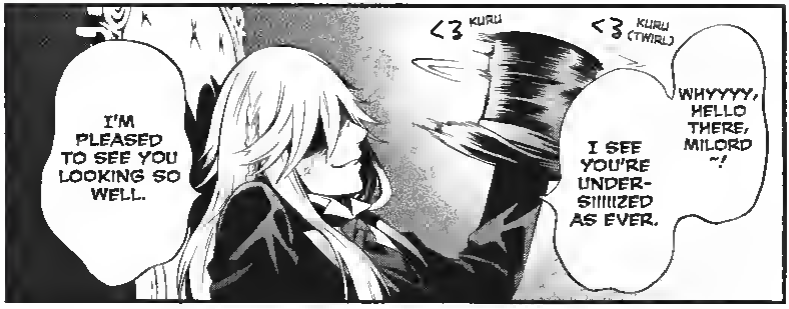
CHAPTER 83

In the morning : The Butler, Giving Assent

UNDER-
TAKER!!
IT'S
YOU
...!


I'M
PLEASED
TO SEE YOU
LOOKING SO
WELL.
I SEE
YOU'RE
UNDER-
SIIIIIZED
AS EVER.
<3 KURU
<3 KURU
(TWIRL)
WHYYYY,
HELLO
THERE,
MILORD
~!

I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU HAD RUN OFF TO AFTER CLOSING UP SHOP...
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD HAVE SECURED WORK AT A SCHOOL OF ALL PLACES.
HAVE YOU ENJOYED YOUR FIRST TASTE OF THE COMMUNAL LIFE?
HEE! HEE!
MY WORD ...
OUR INVESTIGATION INTO A HANDFUL OF RUNAWAYS HAS TAKEN A MOST OUTRAGEOUS TURN.
HEE! HEE!
WELL, I AM BUT A TEMPORARY TUTOR~!
...AND THEN...
...YOU COMMISSIONED THE AURORA SOCIETY TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE...
YOU FOUR PREFECTS MURDERED MISTER DERRICK...

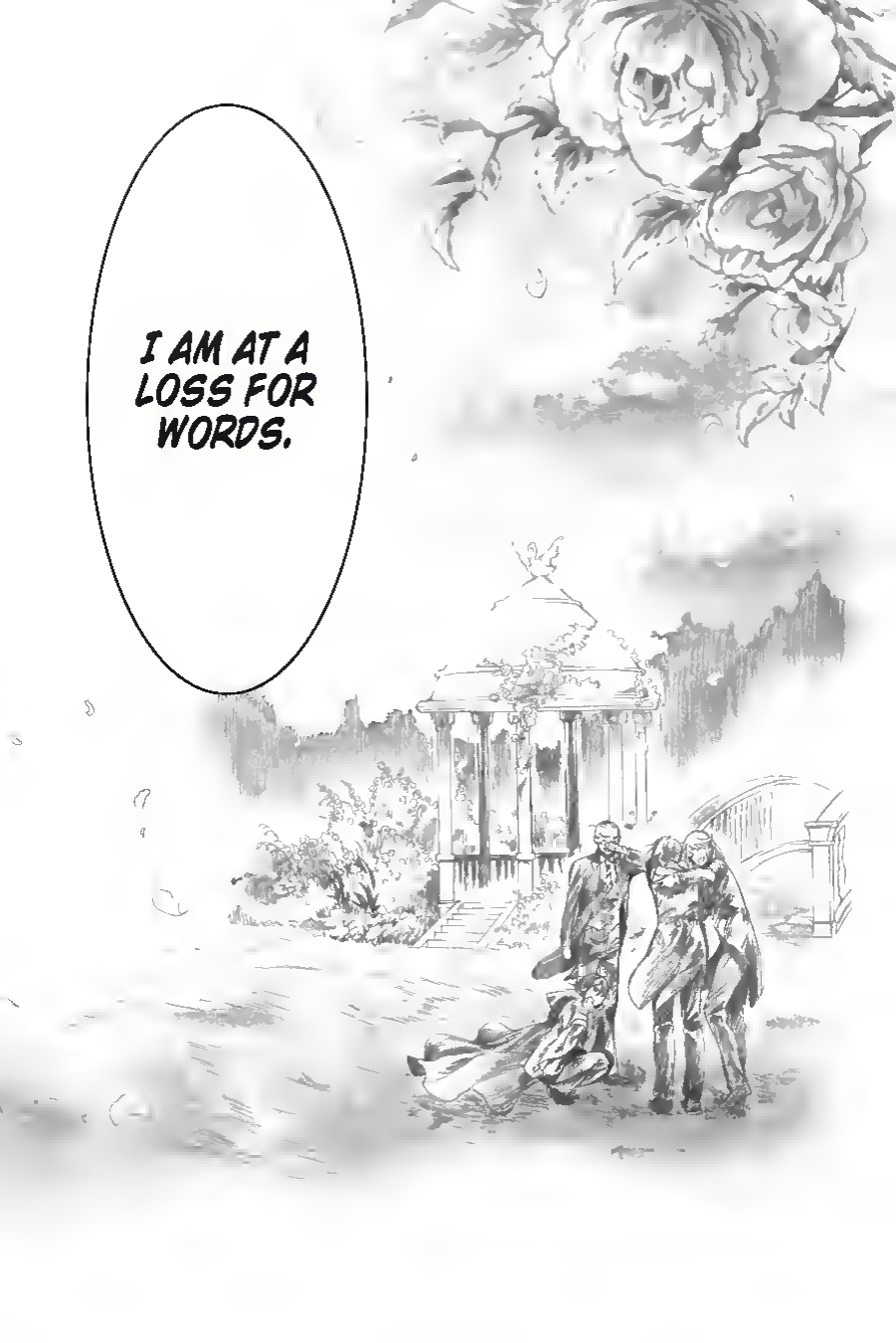
WHAT DID YOU WISH TO PROTECT SO BADLY THAT WOULD FORCE YOU TO RESORT TO SUCH MEASURES?
DERRICK ARDEN WAS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN AT THIS SCHOOL.
HE—
.....
WELL, YOU SEE—
IN WHAT SENSE?

ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO
ANNOUNCING THE PREFECTS OF THE CURRENT YEAR—
VIOLET WOLF HOUSE— GREGORY VIOLET.
GREEN LION HOUSE— HERMAN GREENHILL.
SAPPHIRE OWL HOUSE— LAWRENCE BLUEWER.
SCARLET FOX HOUSE— EDGAR REDMOND.

...WITH PRIDE.
...DO HEREBY VOW TO STRIVE TO UPHOLD THE AUTONOMY OF THE STUDENT BODY...
...AS PREFECTS OF ESTEEMED WESTON COLLEGE, WITH ITS TRIED AND TRUE TRADITIONS...
WE FOUR...
WA (CHEER)

YAHOO!!
WE'VE DONE IT AT LAST!!
BA (DASH)
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH

Y-YOU READY?
YES.
FUWA (PWSH)
WE'VE BEEN HERE FIVE YEARS
AND NOW WE'RE FINALLY PREFECTS, HUH ..?
YOU BET!
?
LAWRENCE?
DO (PLIP)
. I'M SORRY.


I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.

—...
BULLYING?
ARTICLE 15 OF WESTON COLLEGE'S SCHOOL REGULATIONS,
ALL STUDENTS MUST BE EQUAL UNDER THE HEADMASTER—
YES,
WE'VE HAD A LETTER IN THE SUGGESTION BOX...
ASKING US TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE EVERYWHERE DOWN TO THE NOOKS AND CRANNIES.
WE CAN'T LET THIS GO UNPUNISHED!
ALLOW ME TO PATROL THE GROUNDS.
GOOD ON YOU, DERRICK.
WE'LL LET YOU HANDLE IT THEN.
LEAVE IT TO ME!

THE LINEAGE OF A MARQUESS, A CHEERFUL PERSONALITY, AN OVERABUNDANCE OF TALENTS—
DERRICK ARDEN SHONE BRIGHT INDEED.
HIS PAPERS ARE ALWAYS TOP-CLASS.
HIS TALENT IN POETRY IS PRODIGIOUS AS WELL.
CAPTAIN OF HIS HOMETOWN CRICKET TEAM.
HE'S A DEPENDABLE SORT, THAT ONE.
THE EMBROIDERY SKILLS OF AN ARTISAN.
AND SO, WE FAILED TO NOTICE IT—
THE DARKEST OF SHADOWS THAT SPAWNED FROM THAT LIGHT—

LEAVING YOUR HOUSE WITHOUT PERMISSION IS AGAINST THE RULES.
MORE-OVER!
BASHI (SMACK)
BIKU! (FLINCH)
ビクッ
YOU WERE DRINK-ING!?
MACALL
Whisk
F-
FORGIVE ME!
SLIGHTING THE REGULATIONS IS THE SAME AS THROWING MUD ON THE HONOUR OF THIS SCHOOL AND YOUR FAMILY!!

YES...
HAVE IT DONE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK!
THREE Ys FOR YOU.
THE BOX TENDS TO BE FULL OF NONSENSE ANYWAY.
IS THAT SO?
THE THING IS, I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING UNUSUAL.
BATAN (SHUT)
THAT REMINDS ME.
HAVE YOU MADE ANY PROGRESS WITH THE BULLYING AFFAIR FROM THE OTHER DAY?
GACHI (CRACHING)
THERE WERE TWO LETTERS IN THE BOX TODAY.
"WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE WATER FOR WASHING OUR FACES IN THE MORNINGS."
AND...
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS?
POETRY DEDICATED TO THE PREFECTS?

THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER, LAY DOWN BESIDE A CLEAR LAKE.
HIS TORCH NEARBY, HE LISTENED TO THE SONG OF A LYRE MADE OF IRREGULARLY-SHAPED PEARLS PLUCKED BY A GRACIOUS APOSTLE...
...WHEN A MISCHIEVOUS ELF, PDE, RED, TOSSING THE TORCH INTO THE WATER
THE FLAMES OF THE TORCH WERE THEN NO MORE, AND THE LAKE BRIMMED WITH STARS.
THE BEAUTIFUL LAKE BECAME A LEGEND WITH THE POWER TO HEAL...
...BUT THE GOD WHOSE LIGHT WAS STOLEN AWAY CONTINUES TO WANDER BLINDLY IN THE NIGHT.

.....

A POEM DEDICATED TO THE PREFECTS, HUH—
YOU CERTAINLY ARE THE OBJECT OF EVERYONE'S ADORATION.

SAKU
CRUNCH
WHAT IS IT?
WHY HAVE YOU SUDDENLY SUMMONED US?
I'M SLEEPY!..
THAT POEM FROM BEFORE.
IT WAS A MESSAGE FOR US.
"THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER" IS THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD "THURSDAY"
THE "GRACIOUS APOSTLE" MUST STAND FOR "JOHN THE APOSTLE," WHOSE HEBREW NAME MEANS "THE LORD IS GRACIOUS." "THE LYRE OF IRREGULARLY-SHAPED PEARLS" MUST MEAN "BAROQUE MUSIC."
THE "JOHN" OF BAROQUE MUSIC IS JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH. THERE IS A BUST OF BACH IN THE MUSIC ROOM.
I BELIEVE THAT "THE FLAMES OF THE TORCH WERE THEN NO MORE." REFERS TO LIGHTS OUT.
Thor
Thursday

IN OTHER WORDS, SOMEONE WANTS US TO COME TO THE MUSIC ROOM THURSDAY NIGHT?
YES.
A DATE AND TIME WERE CLEVERLY WOVEN INTO THAT POEM.
...AND IT WAS ADDRESSED TO US PREFECTS.
THE POEM IS AN ELABORATE PIECE. THE SOLE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO CONVEY A MESSAGE TO US.
ALTHOUGH IT'S A WONDERFUL WORK OF POETRY IN ITS OWN RIGHT TOO.
LOOK CLOSELY AT THE INK.
THE MEANINGFUL WORDS ARE ALL WRITTEN IN INDIGO.
THOUGH IT LOOKS BLACK AT FIRST GLANCE.
STILL ...
...I'M IMPRESSED YOU REALISED ITS TRUE MEANING.

!
#14
G1 (CREAK)
ANYBODY WELL VERSED IN POETRY WOULD BE ABLE TO DECIPHER THE MESSAGE
BUT I COULDN'T QUITE MAKE OUT THAT LAST "WHOSE LIGHT WAS STOLEN AWAY" BIT.
WHAT IS GOING ON IN THERE !!?
BAN (BANG)
NOW ON YOUR FEET!
UU!
NGH ...
DO (THUMP)
GA (WHACK)

THE MEANING OF "WHOSE LIGHT WAS STOLEN AWAY" WAS THIS—

HE HAD BEEN DOING THIS FOR FOUR YEARS—
EVER SINCE THE DAY HE ENROLLED.

I JUST HAD ONE MORE YEAR TO GO.
NIYAA (SNEER)
!?
I'M THE HEIR TO A PRESTIGIOUS MARQUESSATE, AREN'T I?
MY PARENTS WON'T GET OFF MY BACK ABOUT IT.
SO EVERY SUCCESSOR WHO ATTENDS THIS SCHOOL HAS TO BE A PREFECT.
I WAS SOOOO REVOLTED BY THE THOUGHT OF IT!
GETTING THROWN INTO A PLACE LIKE THIS WHEN I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO SET FOOT HERE.
YOU BASTARD ...

I DO HOPE YOU'LL LET ME CONTINUE BLOWING OFF A LITTLE STEAM LIKE THIS.
COMPARED TO YOUR FAMILIES, DADDY MAKES SIZABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS SCHOOL...
...AFTER ALL.
I'LL HAVE THE VICE HEADMASTER REPORT THIS TO THE HEAD!
BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE A SEVERE PUNISHMENT!
ENOUGH!!
OH, AND I'LL ACCEPT Ys IF I HAVE TO...
HEY, DID YOU GET THAT?

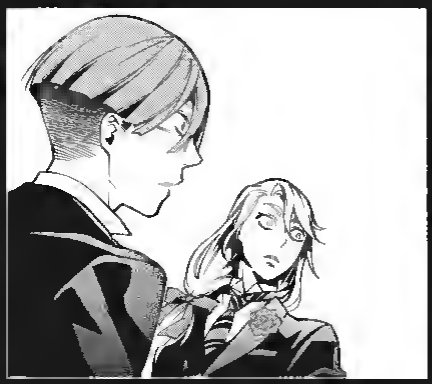
HA (GASP)
SU (SWSH)
GATA (CLACK)
カ"ァッ…
KA (CLICK)
カ"
カ?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WHAT ARE YOU —!?
VICE HEAD-MASTER AGARES !?
I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.
DERRICK ARDEN AND THE OTHER FOUR.

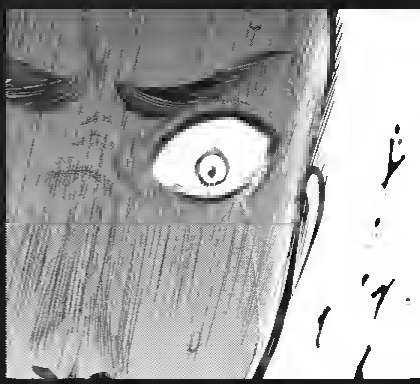
TWO Ys FOR LEAVING YOUR HOUSE AT NIGHT WITHOUT PERMISSION.
WE'RE SOOOOO VERYYYY SORRY.
!?
LEAVING THEIR HOUSE AT NIGHT!? YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
VICE HEAD-MASTER, THEY WERE BULLYING THEIR FELLOWS.
PLEASE REPORT THIS INCIDENT TO THE HEADMASTER TOMORROW —!

N-NO. WE DIDN'T MEAN...
THIS YEAR'S PREFECTS ARE MOST DISCOURTEOUS.
YOU WOULD DARE STAND AGAINST ME?
VERY WELL.
YOU MAY ALL LEAVE NOW.
BASH FLAP
I SEE. EVEN THE VICE HEADMASTER...
...IS HAND IN GLOVE WITH DERRICK!!
MACALL
Whisky

THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

THE TRADITION OF THIS SCHOOL WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNDERMINED...





...AS LONG AS THEY'RE HERE.

WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT...

...BECAUSE—

TRADITION IS ABSOLUTE!!

HE'S...
...STOPPED BREATHING.
ポタッ
POTA (DRIP)
TH-THE BLAME RESTS SQUARELY ON MY SHOULDERS.
WHAT ON EARTH HAVE I—
CALM DOWN, GREENHILL!
THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE...
—NO.
INDEED... BUT HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE THE MATTER?
GREENHILL WILL BE ACCUSED OF MURDER IF WE DO NOTHING.
THIS WAS OUR ONLY OPTION.

SU (SWISH)
NO!
I CAN'T LET YOU ALL TAKE ON THE BURDEN OF MY SIN—
.....I HAVE AN IDEA.
WON'T YOU LEAVE THIS TO ME?
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY PREFECT.
INDEED.
WE PREFECTS MUST PROTECT THIS SCHOOL.
THEREFORE, WE WILL BEAR THE BURDEN OF YOUR SIN WITH PRIDE.
YOU...
.....

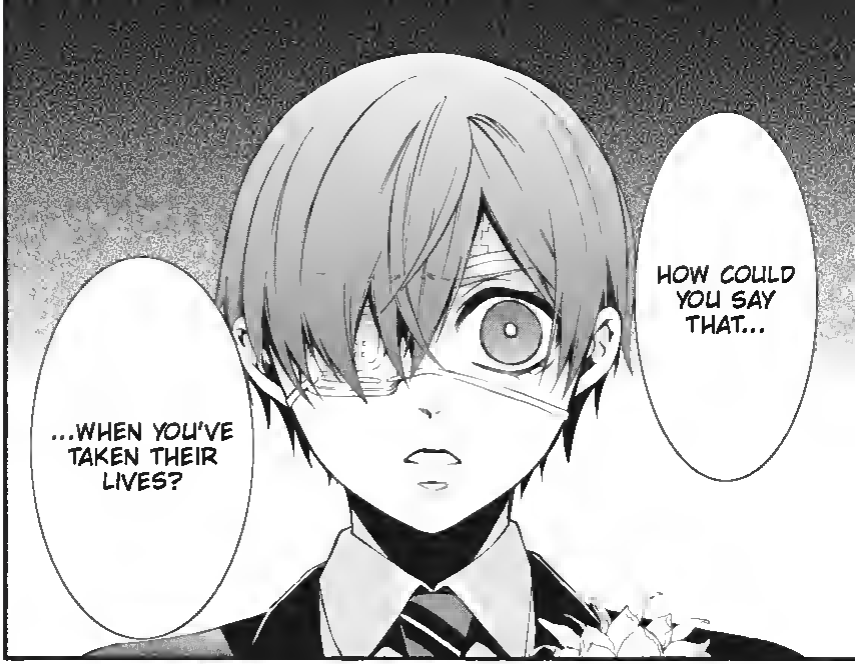
THIS...
...IS ALL FOR WESTON COLLEGE.

GIIII
GIIII (CREEEAK)
THE HEADMASTER IS TAKING A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL NEXT AUTUMN.
THAT MEANS HE'S ABSENTING HIMSELF FROM WORK BY ENTRUSTING US WITH IT...
VIOLET! WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!
THE HEADMASTER TRUSTS US.
WE CAN PROTECT THIS SCHOOL.
THEREFORE, WE MUST MANAGE THIS SITUATION OURSELVES.
WILL WE BE ABLE TO?
THE REANIMATING IS APPARENTLY GOING WELL, SO WE NEEDN'T WORRY.
.....

ZAA (FWOOSH)

...BUT WE HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE IN ORDER TO PROTECT TRADITION AND ORDER.
WE HAVE DONE THEIR LOVED ONES WRONG, TO BE SURE...

KI (GLARE)
SURELY YOU UNDERSTAND, PHANTOM-HIVE?
WE DID NOT WISH TO BRING DISGRACE TO THIS SCHOOL BY RUFFLING FEATHERS.


HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT...
...WHEN YOU'VE TAKEN THEIR LIVES?

ZAA (FWOOSH)

THIS IS MOOOOST AMUSING!
GYAAAH HA HA HA!
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

—PFFT.

HAA...
HUMAN BEINGS...
BFFT!
HEE HEE EEE!
GATTAN (RATTLE)
I HAVE BEEN GIFTED WITH MORE LAUGHTER THAN I DESERVE.
...ARE SUPREMELY TRAGIC...
...SUPREMELY ABSURD...
...AND SUPREMELY DELIGHTFUL!

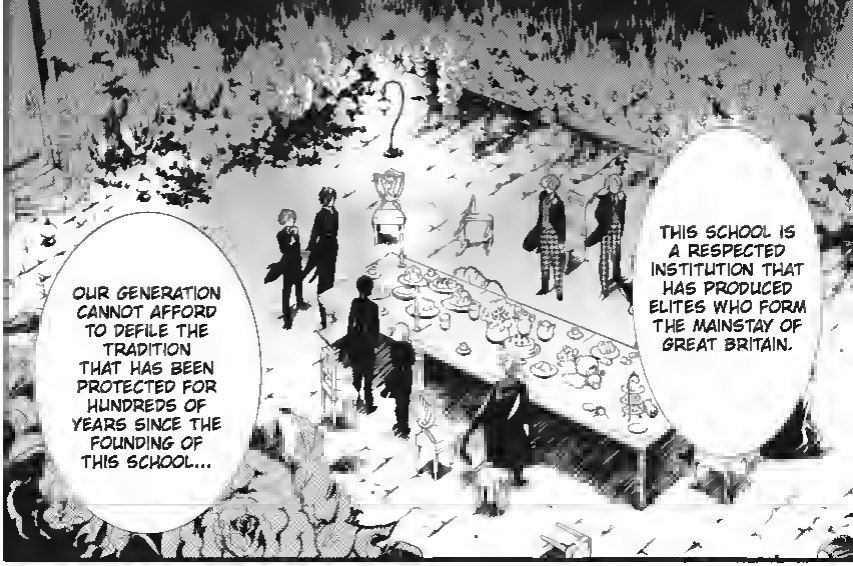
OH?
HOW CURIOUS.
FOR ONCE, I MUST SAY I AGREE WITH YOU THERE.

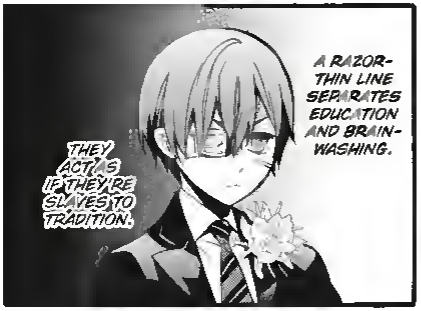
Optical Tailor

Black Butler

Chapter 84

At noon : The Butler, Speculating


THIS SCHOOL IS A RESPECTED INSTITUTION THAT HAS PRODUCED ELITES WHO FORM THE MAINSTAY OF GREAT BRITAIN.
OUR GENERATION CANNOT AFFORD TO DEFILE THE TRADITION THAT HAS BEEN PROTECTED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THIS SCHOOL...


A RAZOR-THIN LINE SEPARATES EDUCATION AND BRAIN-WASHING.
THEY ACT AS IF THEY'RE SLAVES TO TRADITION.

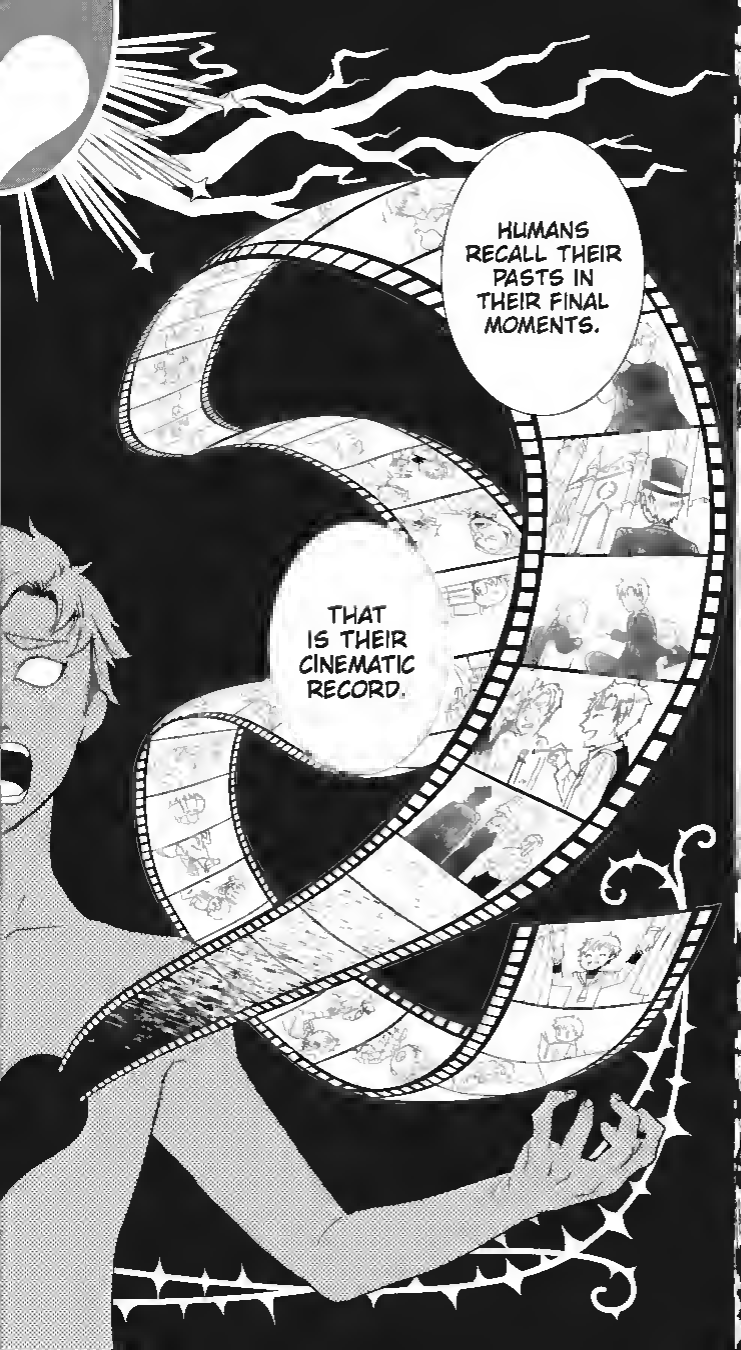
...FOR THE HISTORY OF WESTON COLLEGE...
...IS THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND!

IT'S A WASTE OF TIME TO ARGUE THEM TO SILENCE SINCE THEY'VE BEEN THIS WAY FOR SIX YEARS.
...FINE.

I WAS INVESTIGATING THIS INCIDENT... UNDER THE ORDERS OF A CERTAIN DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGE.
I CAN'T KEEP SILENT NOW THAT I'VE UNCOVERED THE TRUTH.
HOW-EVER ...
...I SHALL REQUEST MEASURES WHICH WILL TAKE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES INTO ACCOUNT.
NIKO (SMILE)
NOW.
THAT JUST LEAVES YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU AFTER!?
YOU HAVE JUST BESTOWED UPON ME PLENTY OF LAUGHTER ...
HEE! HEE!
...SO I WILL EXPLAIN FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE.
IT WAS ONLY FOR A MOMENT, BUT DERRICK WAS CONSCIOUS BEYOND A DOUBT.
NO. HE WAS CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS REANIMATED CORPSES...
HE HAS EVOLVED!
MOGU (MUNCH)
IT PLEASES ME TO HEAR THAT.
MOGU
GOKKUN (GULP)
QUITE SO.

THE DEAD CAN ALSO ADVANCE...
...BY WAY OF EPISODES.
EPI-SODES...?
DO YOU MEAN THE COUNTERFEIT MEMORIES YOU HAVE CREATED?
END
CONNECTING THEM TO THE CINEMATIC RECORDS OF THE DEAD WAS HOW THE CORPSES BEGAN MOVING.
GUESS AGAIN.
YOU'RE CLOSE, THOUGH.
THOSE MEMORIES WERE GIBBERISH.
THE CURRENT CORPSES ARE BEING MOVED—


HUMANS RECALL THEIR PASTS IN THEIR FINAL MOMENTS.
THAT IS THEIR CINEMATIC RECORD.
...BY THEIR LONGING FOR THE FUTURE.

WHAT IF THOSE EPISODES COULD BE EXTRACTED?
WHAT IF, SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CUTS CAN BE HAD?
WHAT IF THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE LINKED EPISODES WAS LONGER THAN THEIR CINEMATIC RECORDS?
AT THE SAME TIME, THEY CRAVE THE FUTURES THEY WERE TO HAVE HAD...
...ALTHOUGH THOSE FUTURES ARE INCOMPLETE.
THE FRAGMENTS OF THOSE FUTURES COMPRISE THEIR EPISODES.

IF I CONNECT SUCH A THING TO A CINEMATIC RECORD—
END

IT'S AKIN TO A FUTURE FORECAST.
THEY ARE MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE...
...NOTHING LIKE MY COUN-TERFEIT MEMORIES.

DO YOU NOT AGREE THAT WHAT WILL BE PERFECTED...

...INFINITELY APPROACHING A LIVING HUMAN!!?
...IS A REANIMATED CORPSE...

...AS IT IS DEPENDENT ON THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE EPISODES.
WELL...
...THE PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS IS STILL VERY VERY LOW...

WHERE IS THE SENSE IN BRINGING BACK THE DEAD!?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!?
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND.
.....

BEYOND ...
...THE END?
HAS IT NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT...
...SOMETHING EXCEEDINGLY AMUSING MAY UNFOLD BEYOND THE ROLL OF THE CREDITS?
I DISAGREE WITH YOU ON THAT POINT.
"DEATH" IS A HOPELESS AND ABSOLUTE "END." THAT IS WHY I FIND IT...
I...
...SIMPLY WANT TO LOOK BEYOND THE FATED END.

...MOST BEAUTIFUL.
HEH
IT WOULD BE A NUISANCE IF CERTAIN BOTHERSOME INDIVIDUALS WERE TO DISCOVER MY WHEREABOUTS.
SO I SHALL BE GOING NOW.
THIS IS ALL I CAN TELL YOU WITH THE COMPEN-SATION I HAVE RECEIVED.
WELL, THEN.
GATA (RISE)
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE AGAIN!!
CAPTURE HIM, SEBAS-TIAN!
AS YOU WISH!
BA (LUNGE)

GAKI (CRASH)
...VICE HEAD-MASTER AGARES!
MEKI (CKRIK)
MERI
YOU WERE A CORPSE AS WELL...
...SO!
HEH!
GRI (GRIND)
GRI
GRI

THAT ONE IS REPLETE WITH EPISODES ...
SUTO (LAND)
...AND IS MY CROWNING MASTER-PIECE...
...FOR NOW.
THAT MUST BE WHY I FELT A SENSE OF DIS-COMFORT THEN.
FUUU (SIGH)
DOKU
DOKU (SPURT)
PACHIN (SNAP)
ちん
!?
GAPAA (BURST)

!!
GA (GRAB)
LE'S PLAY... CRRRICKET...
...DERRICK'S ACCOMPLICES!!
THESE ARE...
GRRRISMAS ..BREAK..

LEAVE THIS GARDEN NOW!
HURRY!!

RUN!!

HA (GASP)
WA (WAIL)
!
I...
I can't move
GAGAA (GAPE)
LET'S PLAY... CRRRICK-ET...
Eek ...!

COME WITH ME!
GA (THUD)
GACHIN (CLANK)
GICHI
GICHI (SQUEEZE)
DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN STOP ME WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
MY, YOU ARE QUITE CAREFREE ABOUT ALL THIS.
WHAT A RIOT THIS IS!
HEE! HEE!
HE MAY HAVE INHERITED THE PHANTOMHIVE BLOOD, BUT HE'S QUITE UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSORS ...

I'VE NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU.
ALL THAT SETS US APART ...
HOW DARE YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME LIKE THAT.
HA (GASP)
...ARE OUR GOALS.
IS HE—

PARIIN (SHATTER)
GOGOO (WHOOM)
ZUA (FWSH)

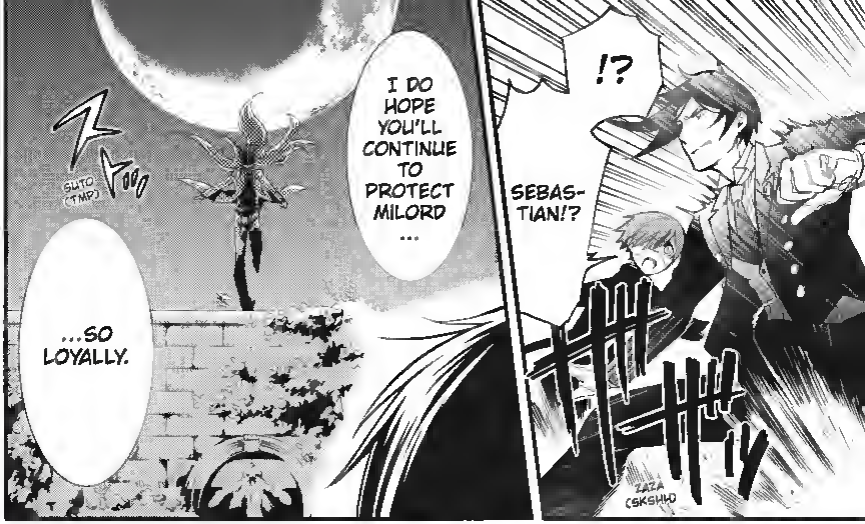
ヒュ
SI
(FLING)
ダンッ
DAN
(SLAM)
ドゴゴ
DOGOO
(WHAAAM)

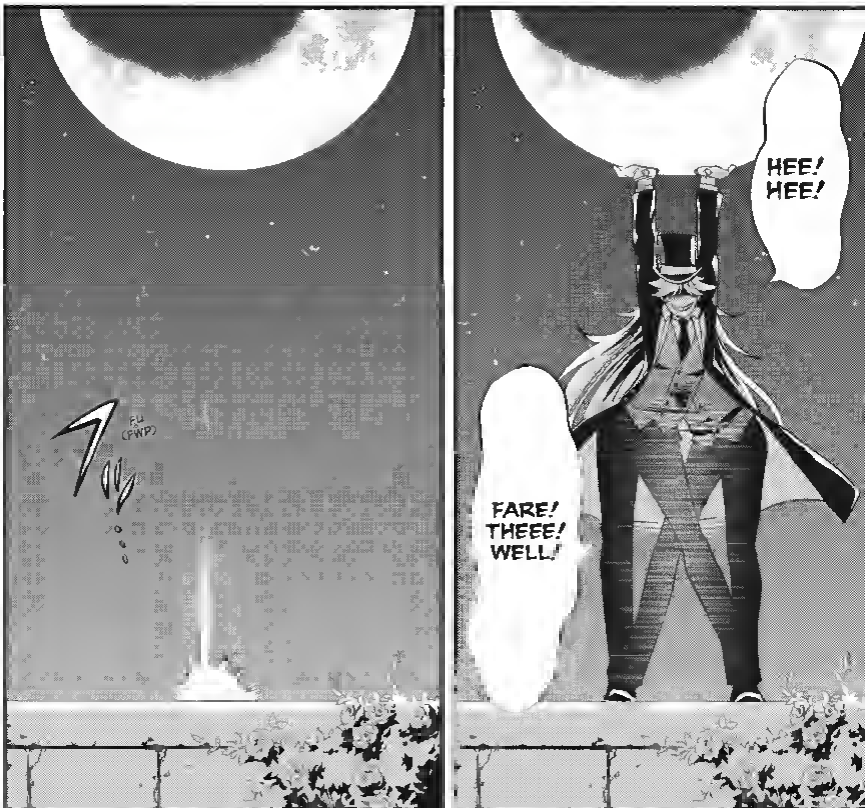
ZUA
(SLASH)

THIS IS NOT GOOD!!
AT THIS DISTANCE ...
...HE IS CLOSER TO THE YOUNG MASTER THAN I!
THEN...

PARIN (SHATTER)
DOGOO (WHOOM)
DIN (STAMP)
...MY FIRST PRIORITY IS TO PROTECT MY CONTRACTOR ...!!
DA (DASH)

JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM YOU, MASTER BUTLER.


I DO HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO PROTECT MILORD ...
SUTO (TMP)
...SO LOYALLY.
!?
SEBAS-TIAN!?
ZAZA (SKSHH)


FU (FWP)
HEE! HEE!
FARE! THEEE! WELL!

STAY BEHIND ME!
HEY, SEBAS—
GA (GRAB)
GAO (GRAB)
!!
I HAVE GONE TO GREAT PAINS TO CULTIVATE YOU.
MEKI
MEKI KOKI
MEKI
I ORDERED YOU TO SEIZE—
BY THE TERMS OF OUR COVENANT, YOUR LIFE IS MY FIRST PRIORITY.
GU (SHOVE)
GU
SEBAS-TIAN!
WHY DID YOU COME TO ME!?

GUSHA (CRUSH)
I CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE HIM STEAL YOU AWAY.

DOCHA (SPLAT)
YOU SHOULD LET HIM SLEEP...
AH!
HEY!
FU (FAINT)
AH...

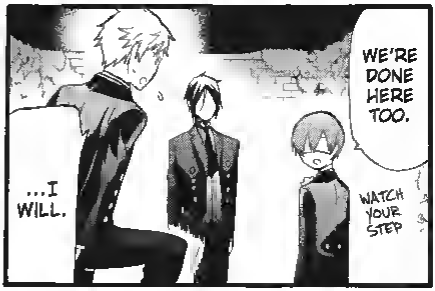
ZOKU (CHILL)
BITATA (SPLATTER)
...!

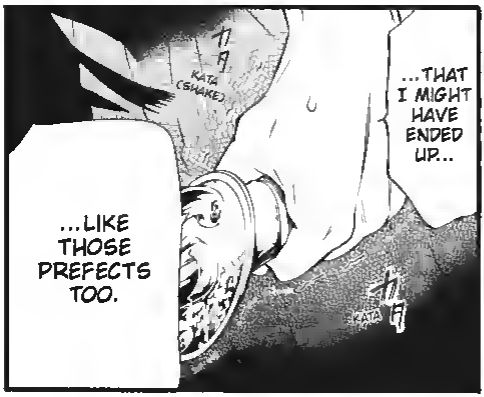
...IN THE WAKE OF THIS TEA PARTY.
OOOOO (NO/AH)
THERE IS STILL MUCH CLEANING TO BE DONE...

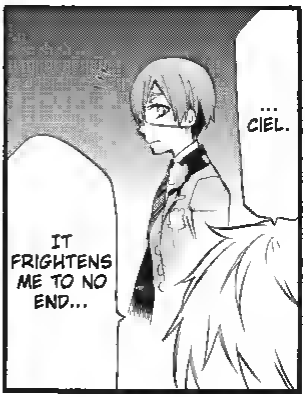
DEAR ME.
HOW AM I GOING TO EXPLAIN ALL THIS TO HER MAJESTY?
WHY NOT GIVE HER ALL THE FACTS AS THEY ARE?
TELL HER THAT "A PERVERSE, ERSTWHILE GRIM REAPER IS REANIMATING THE DEAD."
KYU (TUG)
SHE'LL NEVER BELIEVE—
CIEL!!
DA
DA
DA (DASH)

EVERY-ONE'S ESCAPED SAFELY...
ゴッ
GO (WHACK)

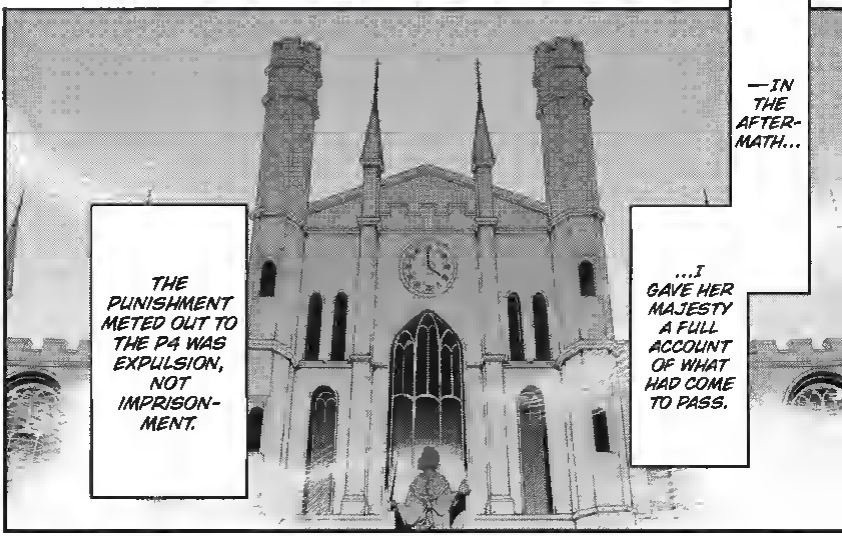
.....

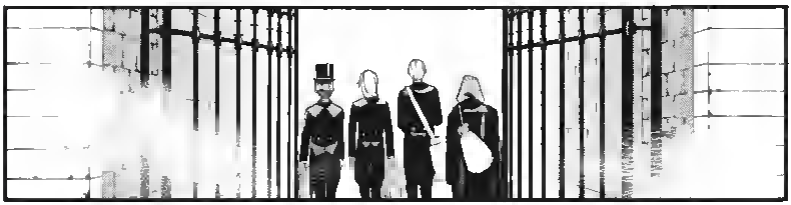

WE'RE DONE HERE TOO.
...I WILL.
WATCH YOUR STEP


...LIKE THOSE PREFECTS TOO.
カタ (SHAKE)
...THAT I MIGHT HAVE ENDED UP..
カタ
KATA

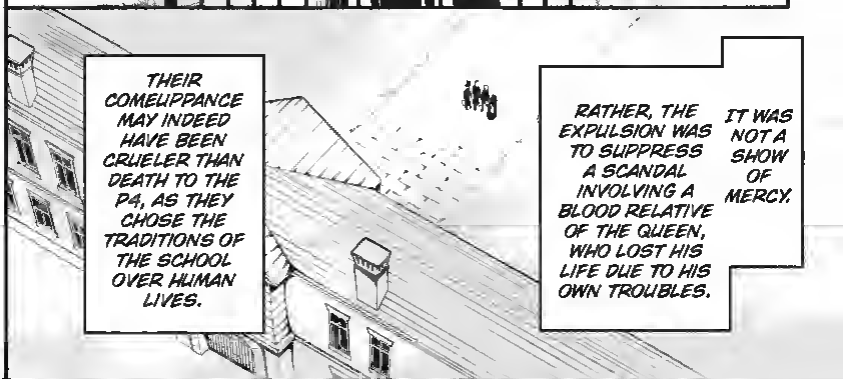

IT FRIGHTENS ME TO NO END...
...CIEL.

...THE SIN OF MURDER IS EQUAL TO JUSTICE.
THAT I MIGHT'VE BECOME A MAN WHO DELUDES HIMSELF INTO THINKING THAT...
UNLIKE ME.
.....
DON'T WORRY.
CONSIDER YOURSELF NORMAL ...
...IF IT SCARES YOU SO.


—IN THE AFTER-MATH...
...I GAVE HER MAJESTY A FULL ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAD COME TO PASS.
THE PUNISHMENT METED OUT TO THE P4 WAS EXPULSION, NOT IMPRISON-MENT.

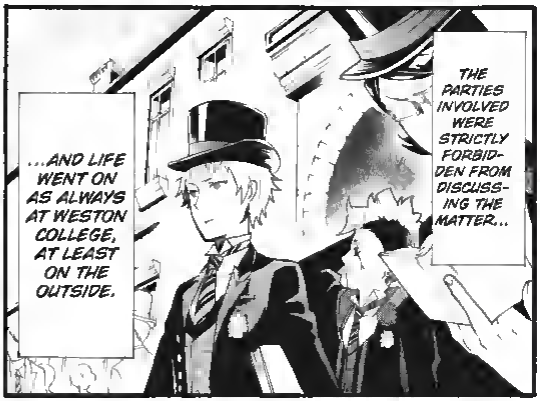


GASHAN (CLANG)


IT WAS NOT A SHOW OF MERCY.
RATHER, THE EXPULSION WAS TO SUPPRESS A SCANDAL INVOLVING A BLOOD RELATIVE OF THE QUEEN, WHO LOST HIS LIFE DUE TO HIS OWN TROUBLES.
THEIR COMEUPPANCE MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN CRUELER THAN DEATH TO THE P4, AS THEY CHOSE THE TRADITIONS OF THE SCHOOL OVER HUMAN LIVES.

...AND THEIR CORPSES WERE BURIED IN SECRET.
THE DISAPPEARANCES OF DERRICK AND HIS FRIENDS WERE EXPLAINED AWAY AS ACCIDENTAL DEATHS FROM A BOATING MISHAP...

AH!

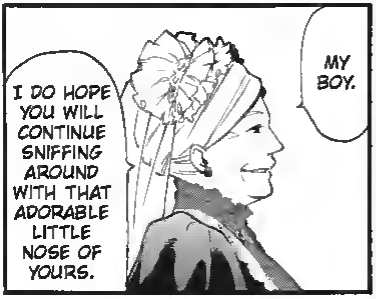

...AND LIFE WENT ON AS ALWAYS AT WESTON COLLEGE, AT LEAST ON THE OUTSIDE.
THE PARTIES INVOLVED WERE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN FROM DISCUSSING THE MATTER...

I DO SO ADMIRE THEM!

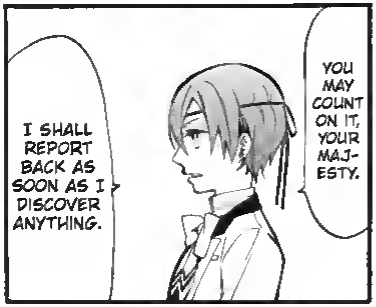
LOOK. IT'S THE NEW P4!
ぱっ
PAA (BE AND)

SAKU
(CRUNCH)
I UNDERSTAND IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASK YOUR MAJESTY TO BELIEVE SUCH A THING...
—REANI-MATING THE DEAD?

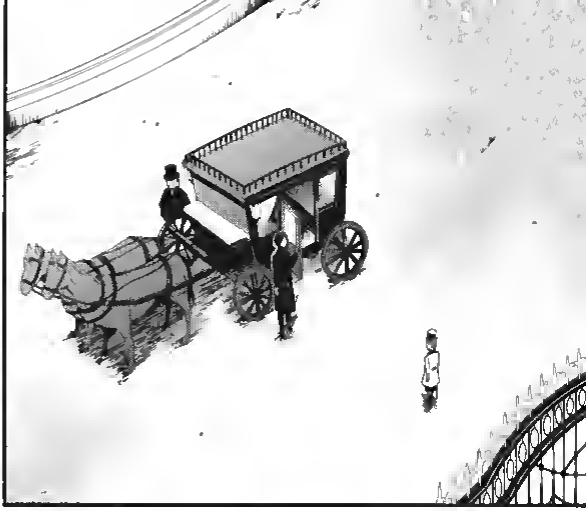
NIKO (SMILE)
NIKO
I WOULD NEVER DOUBT YOUR WORDS, MY BOY.


MY BOY.
I DO HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE SNIFFING AROUND WITH THAT ADORABLE LITTLE NOSE OF YOURS.

REANIMATING THE DEAD AND THEN MANIPULATING THEM...
WHAT HORRIFYING TECHNOLOGY.
ONE THAT MAY SOMEDAY PROVE A THREAT TO GREAT BRITAIN.


YOU MAY COUNT ON IT, YOUR MAJESTY.
I SHALL REPORT BACK AS SOON AS I DISCOVER ANYTHING.

GASHA (SHO)
TON (KU)
TON



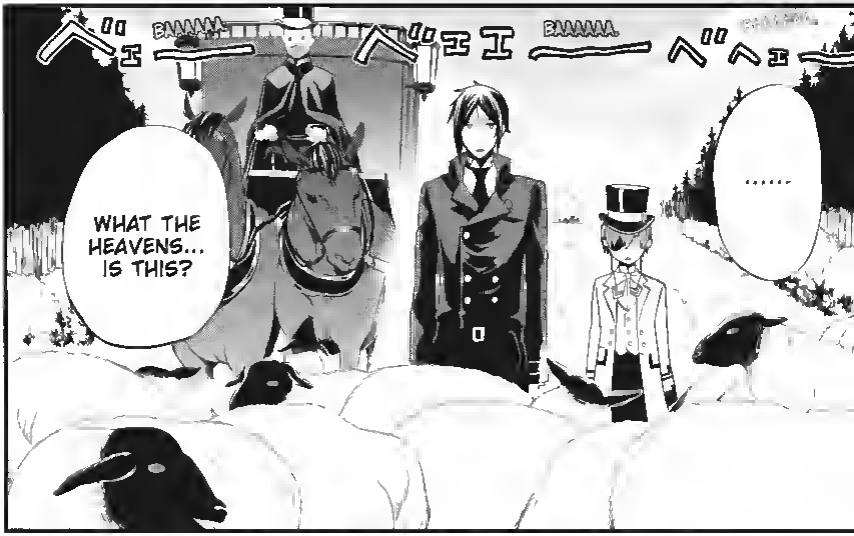
I WILL PREPARE SOMETHING AS SOON AS WE RETURN.
...AH, YES.
I'D LIKE TO GET HOME ON THE DOUBLE AND RELAX WITH SOME SWEETS.
GARA
QUITE.
GARA (KU)
GARA
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED.

NN?
SU (SUU)
IT SHOULD KEEP YOU BUSY UNTIL WE REACH THE MANOR.

GOOD GRIEVE
I RECEIVED THIS FROM THE POSTMAN AS WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE

I'LL SEND YOU THE PHOTOGRAPH.
TAKE CARE.
OH? YOU DO NOT MIND...
...DISCARDING A LETTER FROM YOUR FORMER SCHOOLMATE WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A GLANCE?
I DON'T WANT IT.
THROW IT AWAY.
IS THAT SO?
I DON'T MIND.
I HAVE NO PLANS TO RETURN TO THAT STUFFY MINIATURE GARDEN.

ムシャア
MUSHAA
ムシャ
MUSHA
ムシャ
MUSHA (MUNCH)


BAAAAAA
BAAAAAA
BAAAAAA
WHAT THE HEAVENS... IS THIS?
.....

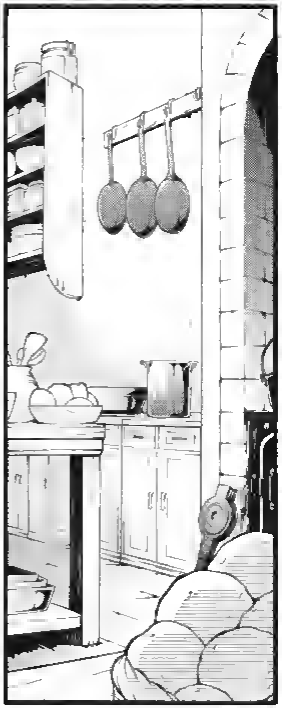
NEEEEH
GYAAAH!
OLD MAN SAM'S FARM FENCE SEEMS TO HAVE COLLAPSED.
DON'T EAT MY SKIRT. DON'T, I SAY!
—SAYS EMILY.
WELCOME BACK! ♡
BAAAAAA
NEEEEH
OH!
YOUNG MASTER. MISTER SEBASTIAN.
WELCOME BAAACK!

WAAAIT!
AH!
THAT CHAP'S HEADED FOR THE HERB GARDEN!
WAAAH!
NO, NO!
—SAYS WILDE.
NO, IT'S NOTHING ...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
HEH!
A LAWN IS SIMPLY A LAWN.
HOLD STILL! —SAYS WILDE— GUH!
WAAAAH, CAUGHT YOOOU!

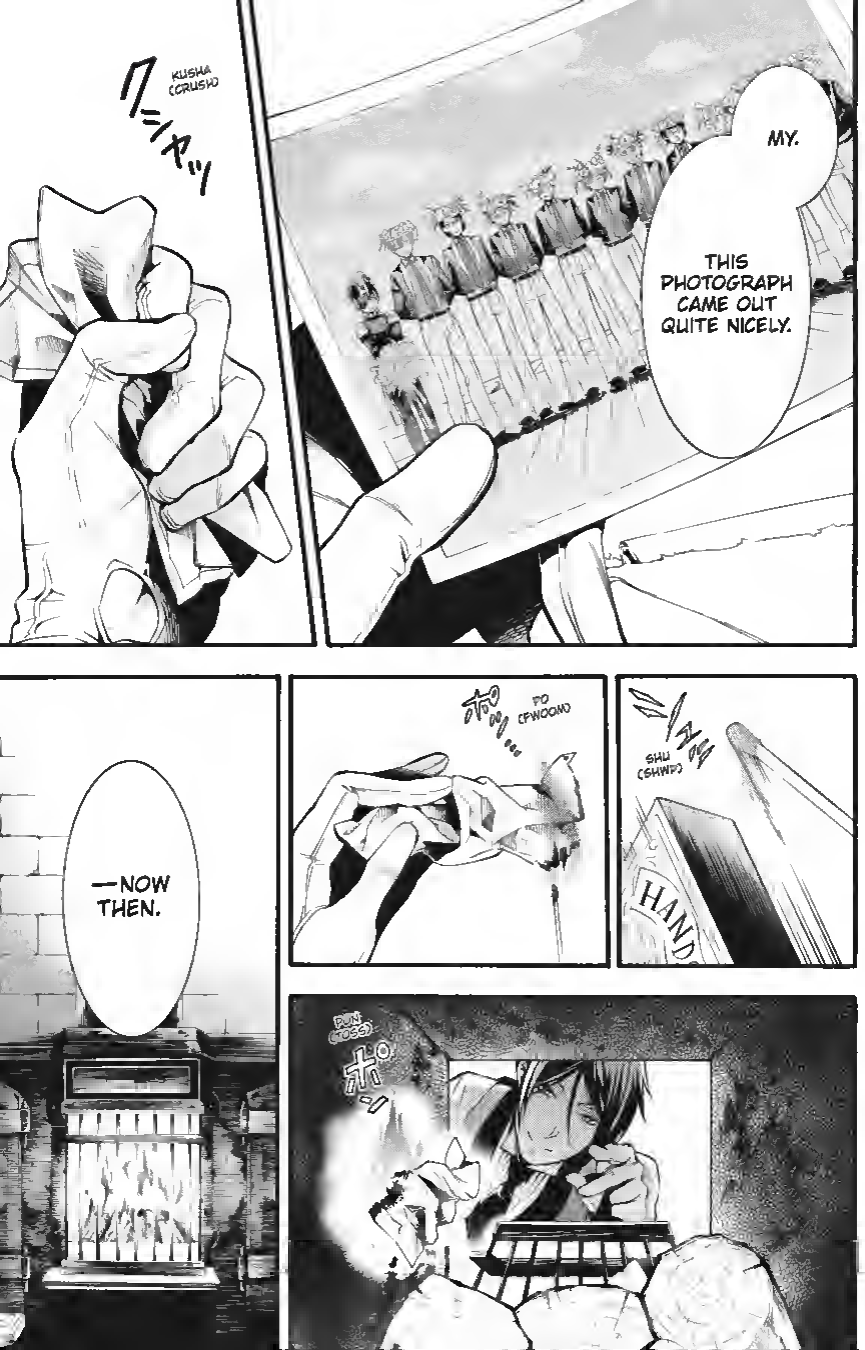
YES, MY LORD.

TIDY UP QUICKLY AND PREPARE MY AFTER-NOON TEA.

NOW, WHAT I SHALL MAKE TODAY?

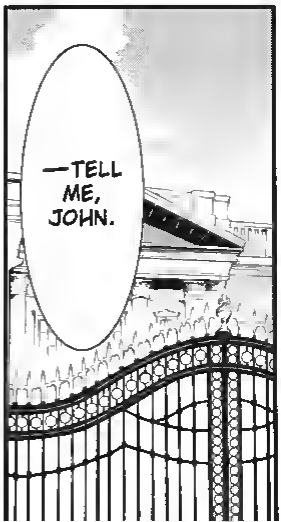


フ
SU (SWF)
From M. McMillan


KUSHA (CRUSH)
MY.
THIS PHOTOGRAPH CAME OUT QUITE NICELY.
TO (PHOOM)
SHU (SHWP)
HAND
—NOW THEN.
RUN (HOSO)

TIME TO BAKE THE YOUNG MASTER AN EXTRA-SWEET CAKE.

THE VERY THOUGHT TERRIFIES ME.
REANIMATED CORPSES WITH NO FEELINGS OF PAIN OR DREAD...


—TELL ME, JOHN.

I SHALL PROTECT YOU IN PLACE OF PRINCE ALBERT WITHOUT FAIL.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF SUCH MONSTERS ATTACK US?
...WOULD YOU NOT AGREE THAT...
BUT...
U-FU-FU, THANK YOU.
...IF SUCH MONSTERS WERE TO...
...BECOME OUR ALLIES...

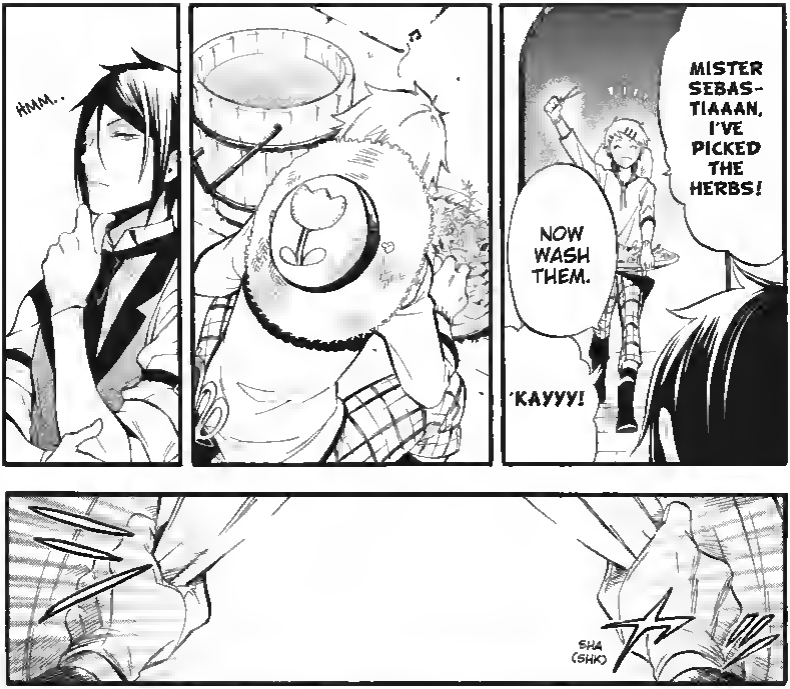
...IT WOULD BE QUITE SPLENDID?

Book
Store

Black Butler

CHAPTER 85
In the afternoon : The Butler, Taking Off
WATCH MAKER and JEWELRY

SHUN
SHUN
SHUN (SPIN)
MEY-RIN.
BRING ME FORTNUM & MASON'S ROYAL BLEND.
DA
DA
DA
DA (THUP)
DA
R-RIGHT AWAY!
ONE TWO THREE
SU (SCOOT) SU SU
...NN?
ERRM...


HMM..
MISTER SEBAS-TIAAAN, I'VE PICKED THE HERBS!
NOW WASH THEM.
'KAYYY!
SHA (SHK)
IT IS TIME TO RISE.
YOUNG MASTER.

TODAY'S TEA IS A BLEND?
AS SHARP AS EVER, YOUNG MASTER.
THE TEA IS FROM FORTNUM & MASON.
HAHNUSH!
KOPOPO (POUR)
YES.
AND HONEY AS WELL.
WOULD YOU CARE FOR MILK?
THERE IS A STACK OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRING YOUR SIGNATURE.
FURTHER-MORE...

...THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT AT HARROD'S THAT HAS JUST RECENTLY OPENED WOULD LIKE YOU TO VISIT...
DOSA (PWUMP)
HAAA (SIGH)
AH... I SEE.
SURU (SLIDE)
THEN I SHALL GO TODAY.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
IN THAT CASE, I HAVE A SMALL REQUEST, YOUNG MASTER.
HMM?
I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A NEW PAIR OF GLASSES FOR MEY-RIN AS HER CURRENT PAIR SEEMS TO BE WELL OUT OF DATE...
...AND A NEW HAT FOR FINNY AS HIS CURRENT ONE IS FULL OF CONSPICUOUS PATCHES.
FINE.
THEN TODAY I'LL TAKE THEM A—
DO (STOMP)
DO
DO
DO
DO

CIEEEL!!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
GEH!
BAAAN (WHAM)
HOW COULD YOU WITH-DRAW FROM SCHOOL WITHOUT TELLING ME!?
GAKU (SHAKE)
GAKU
YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY THERE UNTIL YOU COMPLETE YOUR STUDIES.
SCHOOL WILL BE PERFECT FOR LEARNING ABOUT THE WORLD.
SCHOOL IS BORING WITHOUT YOU AROUND!
HMPH!
BE-SIDES!
THE COURSE-WORK IS TOO EASY!!
I STUDIED ALL OF THAT WHEN I WAS A CHILD.
EH!?
えっ？

QUITE RIGHT!!
WH! WHAT A GREAT SURPRISE
ROYAL EDUCATION IS IN A CLASS BY ITSELF ALL AROUND THE WORLD IT WOULD SEEM...
ARE YOU LISTENING?
CLEEEL!
THE INTELLECTUAL BRILLIANCE OF MY PRINCE WAS THE PRIDE OF THE COURT TUTORS!
SO YOU'RE HERE AS WELL.
YOU'RE BEING A PAIN.
NAMASTE JI!
YES!
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE!
A WHILE ...?
EH?
WE JUST MET AT WESTON COLLEGE THE OTHER DAY.
EEEEEH!?

SOON AFTER PRINCE SOMA'S ENROLLMENT...
LOOKS LIKE I HAVE TIME TO SPARE! I THINK I'LL GO TO CIEL'S FOR A LARK!
KOSO (SNEAK)
ALIGH, BUT I WAS COMMANDED TO STAY HOME.
I REALLY SHOULDN'T SHOW MYSELF... BUT!!
AT FLIT (PANIC)
おたふた
SOMA (FIDGET) SOWA
LEAVING YOUR HOUSE AT NIGHT IS AGAINST SCHOOL REGULATIONS!
THIS IS STILL YOUR FIRST DAY HERE!!
YOU MUSTN'T, MY PRINCE!!
HARA (SWEAT)
M-MY PRINCE ...!!
AAAH! NOOO, NOT THAT WAAAY!!
DO DO DO (STOMP)
DOKII (CRUNCH)
G'SA (RUSTLE)
WHAT IS IT!?
A CAT!?

NIKO (SMILE)
HEEH!?
YOU WERE AT THE CRICKET TOURNEY AS WELL.
あたふた
TAFUTA
EH, NO, UM! THAT WAS —!!
—IS WHAT HAPPENED THEN.
SLI (SWF)
OUR GOOD OLD RED HOUSE IS GOING TO BREEZE TO VICTORY IN THIS MATCH!
BUT WE KNEW THAT ALREADY, DIDN'T WE?
WHEN I WENT TO RED HOUSE TO "DELIVER" MY SPECIAL PIE—
O-OH NO...!!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEAT PIE THAT WAS HERE?
OH?
WOULD YOU CHAPS STOP CHATTING AND HELP READY THE—

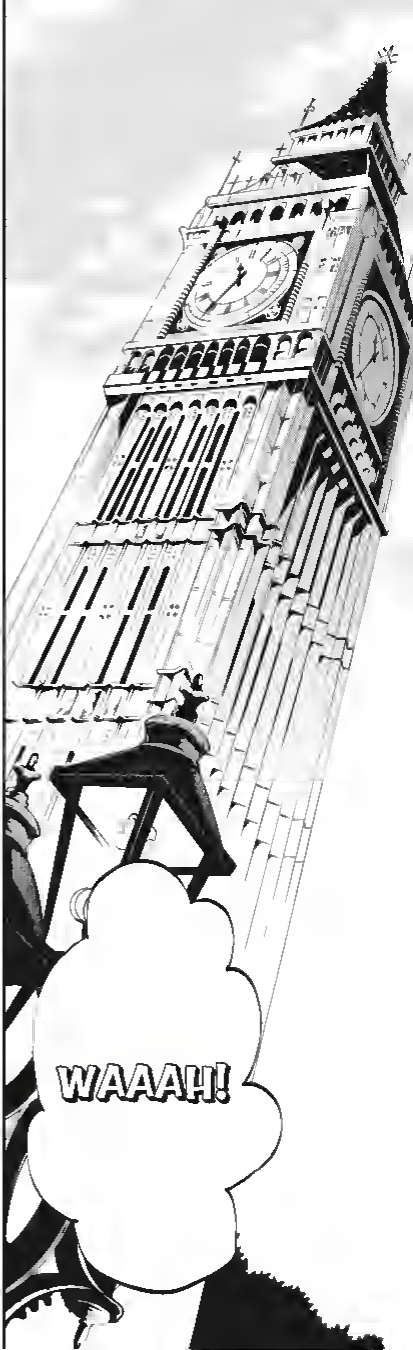
I HAD SECRETLY BAKED A CHICKEN PIE FOR MY PRINCE...
GAAAN (SHOCK)
...AS I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE UNHAPPY ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO EAT THE BEEF PIE—
BUT MISTER SEBASTIAN HAS BEATEN ME TO IT!
•HE'S UNDER THE TABLE.
HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE MY PRINCE TO EAT THE PIE I HAVE BAKED.
SASA (SWISH)
HE WILL SURELY ASK FOR THE LARGEST PIECE.
GOD, FORGIVE ME MY SELFISHNESS.
MISTER SEBASTIAN. I AM MOST IMPRESSED ...
YOU EVEN PAY ATTENTION TO THE MEALS OF YOUR CURRENT OPPONENT.
KUH (URGH)
PHEW.
THEN GIVE ME THE LARGEST PIECE, DO!
—IS WHAT HAPPENED THEN.
HA HA HA!
AH BAH BAH BAH BAH BAH!
SO THAT'S WHY HE WAS THE ONLY ONE UNAFFECTED..
M-M-M-M-MISTER SEBASTIAN THAT WAS...!!

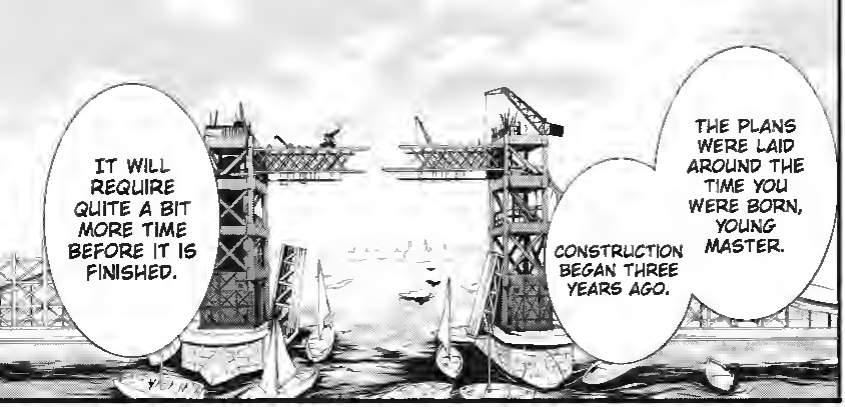
AAAAAG...
...N!!!!!...
GO
GO
GO
GO
(RUMBLE)
DID YOU DISOBEY ME!?
GYAAA (BICKER)
SAKU (BRISK)
GYAAA
GYAAA
SAKU
FORGIVE ME, My PRINCE.
I COULD NOT HELP BUT BE WORRIED.
DO YOU FIND ME SO UN-WORTHY OF YOUR TRUS—
SAKU
SAKU
AH!!
AAAH!
CIEEEL, WAAAIT ...!!
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
GARA
CHA (CHIK)
YOU TWO WATCH THE HOUSE WHILE WE'RE GONE.
WE HAVE SOME ERRANDS TO RUN.

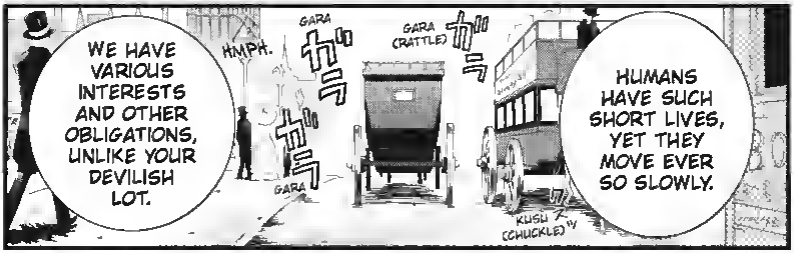
WHAT A BIG CLOCK!
IT'S CALLED BIG BEN.

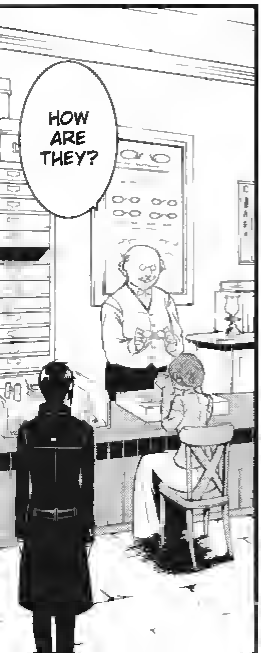
HMMM SOUNDS STRANGE

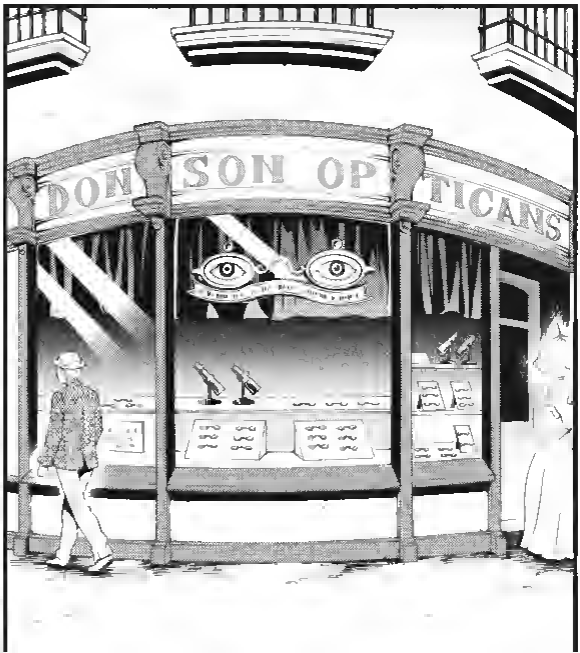
I WONDER WHEN THE TOWER BRIDGE WILL BE COMPLETE.

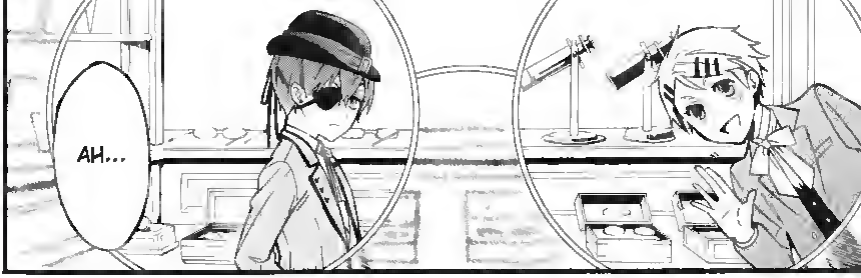

WAAAH!


IT WILL REQUIRE QUITE A BIT MORE TIME BEFORE IT IS FINISHED.
CONSTRUCTION BEGAN THREE YEARS AGO.
THE PLANS WERE LAID AROUND THE TIME YOU WERE BORN, YOUNG MASTER.


WE HAVE VARIOUS INTERESTS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS, UNLIKE YOUR DEVILISH LOT.
HMPH.
GARA
GARA
GARA (RATTLE)
KUSU KUSU (CHUCKLE)
HUMANS HAVE SUCH SHORT LIVES, YET THEY MOVE EVER SO SLOWLY.

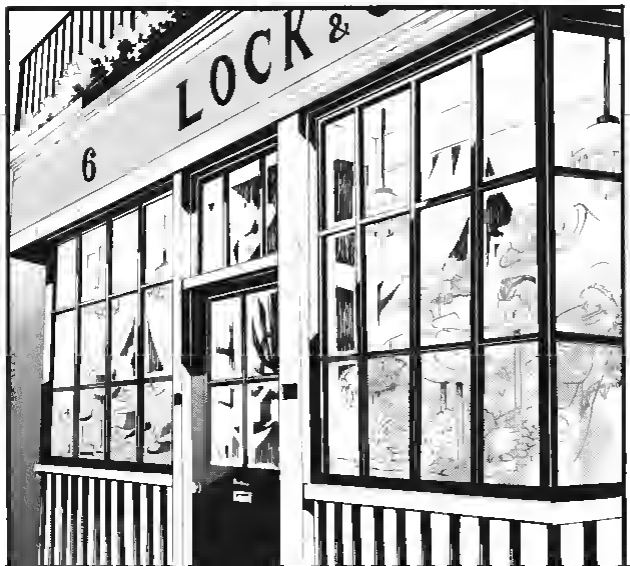

HOW ARE THEY?


DON SON OP TICANS


AH...

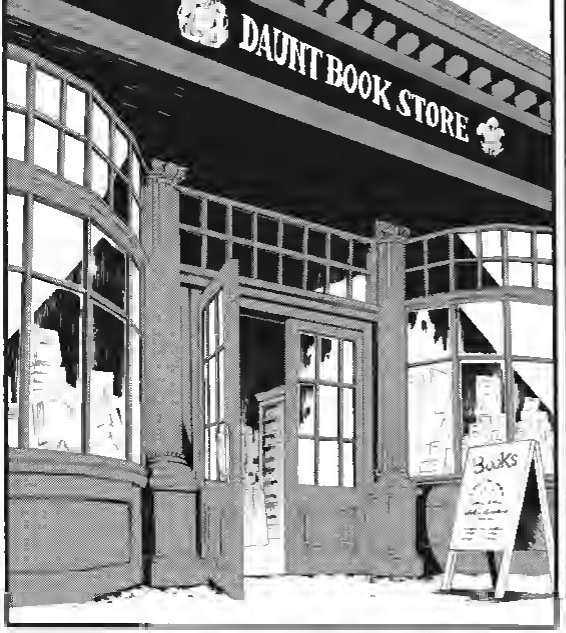
DOES THAT SUIT?

I CAN SEE VERY WELL, I CAN!
THEN WE SHALL TAKE THEM.


6
LOCK &

EWAAH!
SEEING TOO WELL IS A PROBLEM TOO, IT IS!!
BATAAAN (THUD)

I'D LIKE A STRAW HAT THAT'S STYLISH LIKE BIG BEN.
GA (GRAB)
AN ORDINARY ONE WILL DO.
EH?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR?
SINCE WE'RE OUT AND ALL...
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU TWO WANT?
YOU'RE OKAY WITH ONE THAT BIG?
YES.
Globe Tr

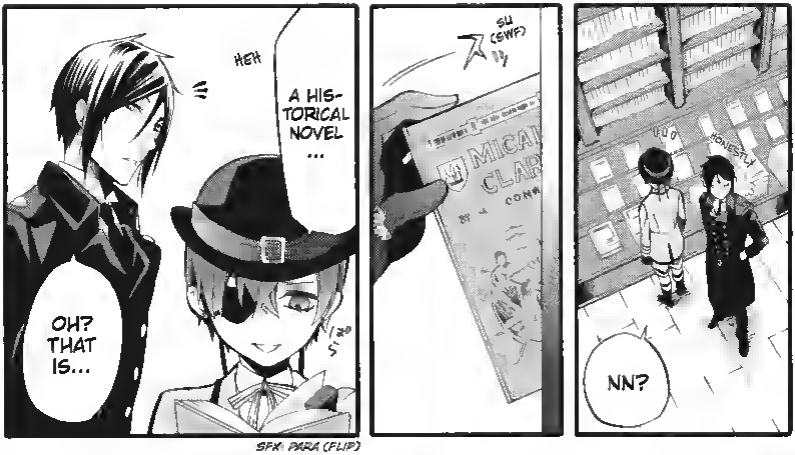

DAUNT BOOK STORE
Books

KYAAAAAH!
SAYS RDS
THEN WE CAN ALL TRAVEL TOGETHER.
NYURUN (POKE)
にゅるん

HOW ABOUT SOME-THING LIKE THIS!?
WAHEHHH
SEXY GIRL

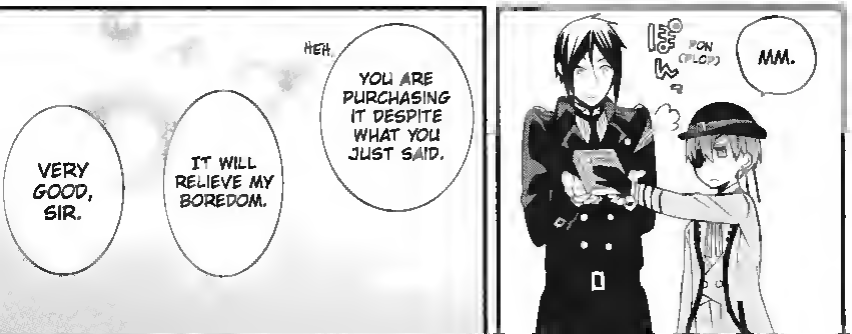
YOUNG MASTER!

ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
YOU HAVE SOME GALL SHOWING THE YOUNG MASTER A THING LIKE THAT!
TCH!



SFX: PARA (FLIP)

...A BOOK BY PROFESSOR ARTHUR, WHO WAS EVER SO GOOD TO US.
HE CAN WRITE HISTORICAL FICTION ANYTIME.
THE PROFESSOR SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK PENNING DETECTIVE STORIES RIGHT NOW.



YOUNG MASTER, IF YOU HAVE SWEETS NOW, YOU WILL SPOIL YOUR DINNER—
THIS IS MARKET RE-SEARCH.

Olde Sweet Shoppe
SWEETS
Cherry Lips
Jap Deserts

O—
OHH!?
PON (TOSS) ポン
HERE.

YES, SIR!
BALDO.
HYO! (POP)

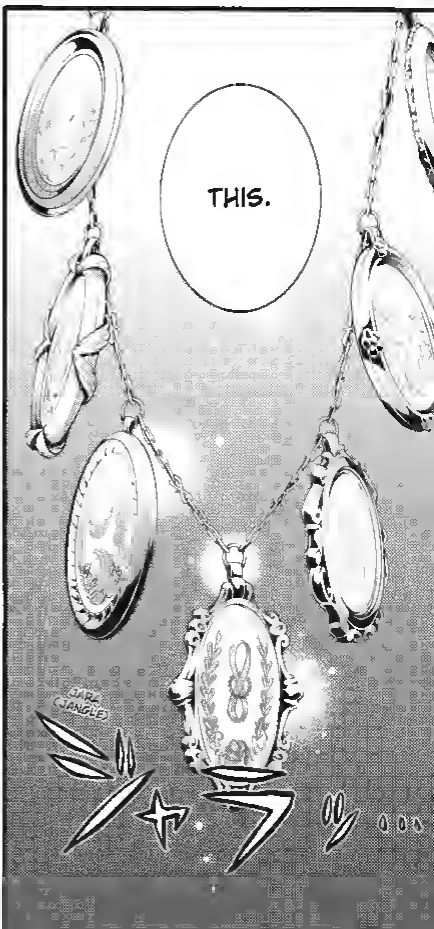
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME-THING TOO.
I CAN'T HAVE YOU LOSING YOUR SENSE OF TASTE FROM SMOKING TOO MUCH.

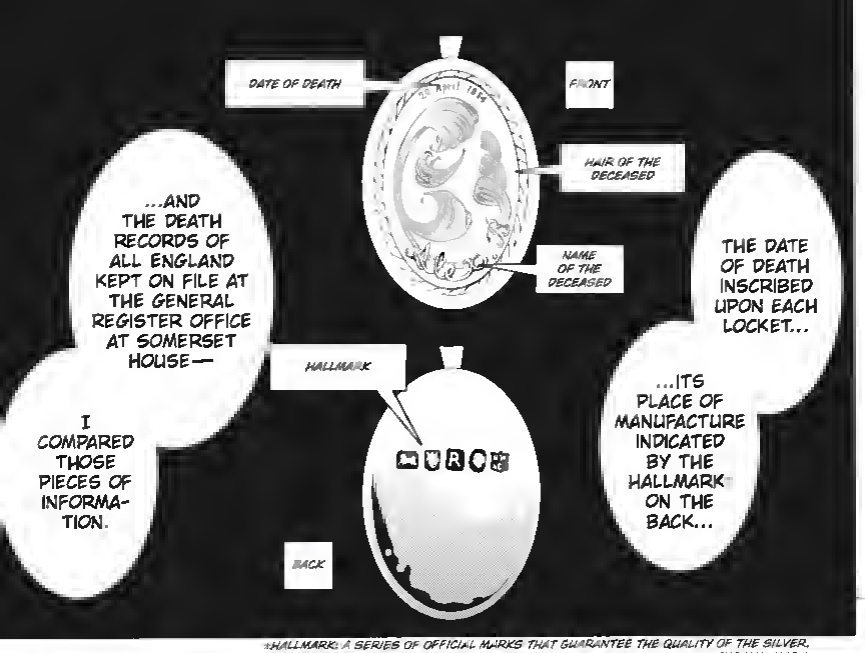
...THIS IS CANDY?

THANKS MUCHLY!
YOU BETCHA!
YOU'RE MY CHEF, AREN'T YOU?
!
NN?
TO?
...BUT MAY WE MAKE ONE LAST STOP?
I DO BEG YOUR PAR-DON, SIR...
WELL, NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE INSPECTION.
KEPU (BURP)
*SOMERSET HOUSE: A BUILDING THAT HOUSES GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS.
SOMERSET HOUSE.*

GOSO (DIG)
WHAT BUSINESS DID YOU HAVE THERE?
...WELL?

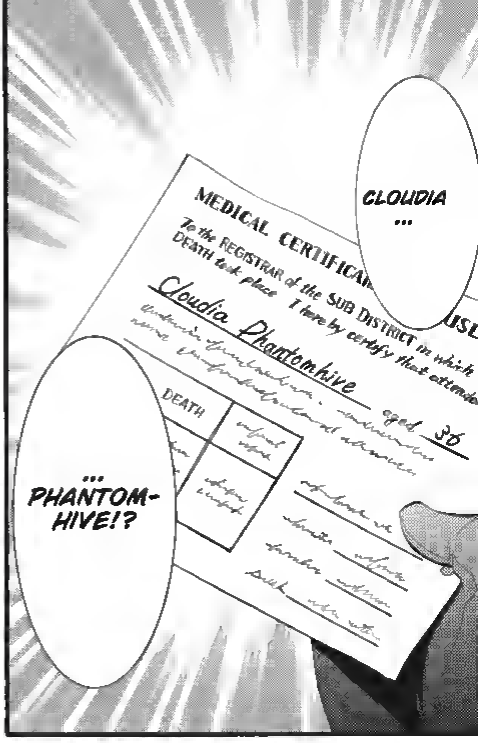
!
THAT'S THE UNDER-TAKER'S CHAIN OF MOURNING LOCKETS ...!
YES. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT YIELD SOME CLUES ABOUT HIM AND HIS WHERE-ABOUTS, SO I WAS DOING A LITTLE RESEARCH.

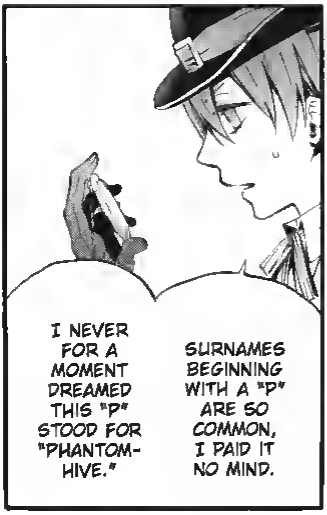

THIS.
CHARL (JANGLE)

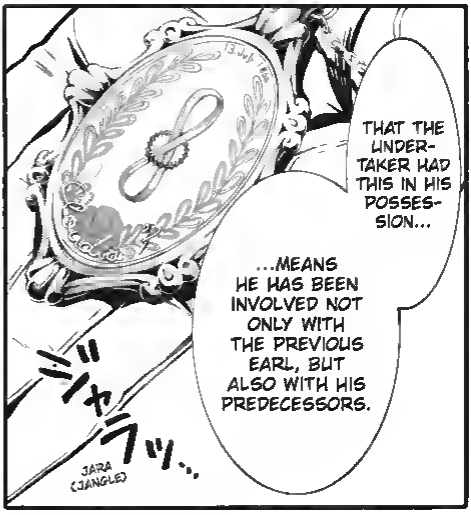

DATE OF DEATH
FRONT
HAIR OF THE DECEASED
NAME OF THE DECEASED
...AND THE DEATH RECORDS OF ALL ENGLAND KEPT ON FILE AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE AT SOMERSET HOUSE—
I COMPARED THOSE PIECES OF INFORMATION.
HALLMARK
BACK
THE DATE OF DEATH INSCRIBED UPON EACH LOCKET...
...ITS PLACE OF MANUFACTURE INDICATED BY THE HALLMARK ON THE BACK...

*HALLMARK: A SERIES OF OFFICIAL MARKS THAT GUARANTEE THE QUALITY OF THE SILVER. SILVER PURITY AND PLACE OF MANUFACTURE CAN BE DETERMINED FROM THE HALLMARK.

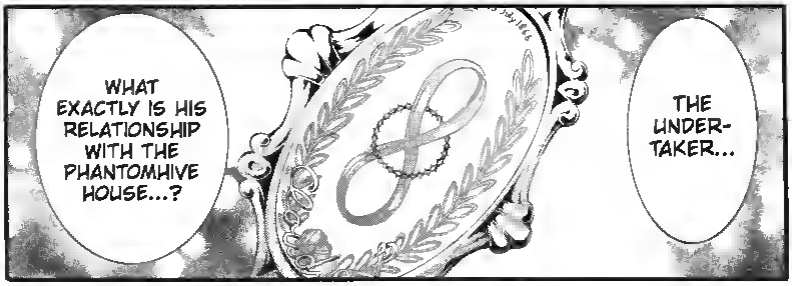
I ONLY KNOW HER BY NAME...
...BUT SHE'S MY GRANDMOTHER!

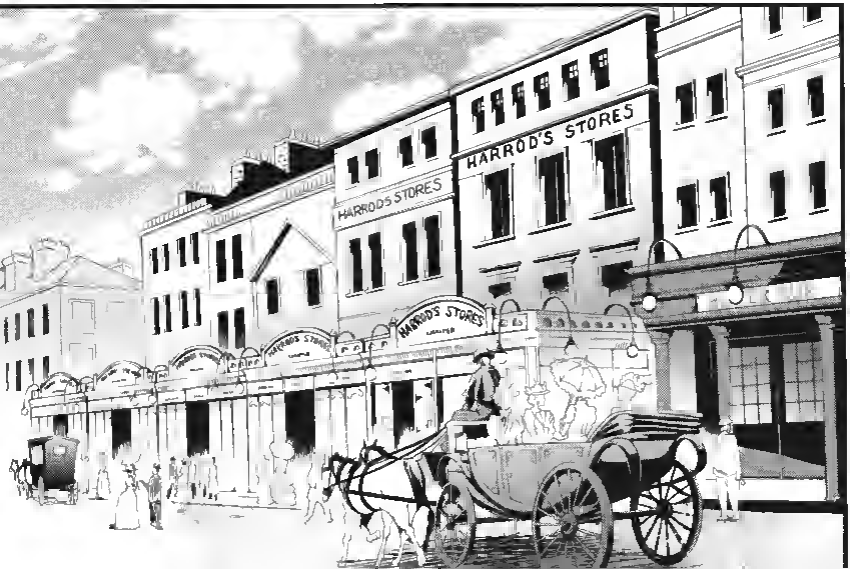

CLOUDIA ...
MEDICAL CERTIFICA
To the REGISTRAR of the SUB DISTRICT in which DEATH took place
I hereby certify that attende
Cloudia Phantomhive aged 36
DEATH
...PHANTOM-HIVE!?


I NEVER FOR A MOMENT DREAMED THIS "P" STOOD FOR "PHANTOM-HIVE."
SURNAMES BEGINNING WITH A "P" ARE SO COMMON, I PAID IT NO MIND.


THAT THE UNDER-TAKER HAD THIS IN HIS POSSES-SION...
...MEANS HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED NOT ONLY WITH THE PREVIOUS EARL, BUT ALSO WITH HIS PREDECESSORS.
JARA (JANGLE)

I KNEW YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD PROTECT THE EARL
.....
FOR IT IS MY TREASURE

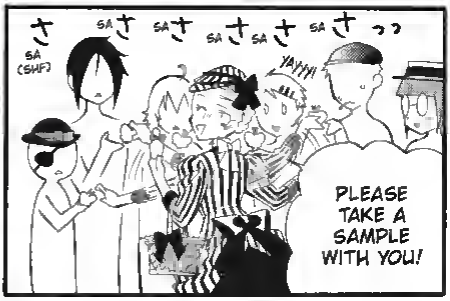

WHAT EXACTLY IS HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHANTOMHIVE HOUSE...?
THE UNDER-TAKER...

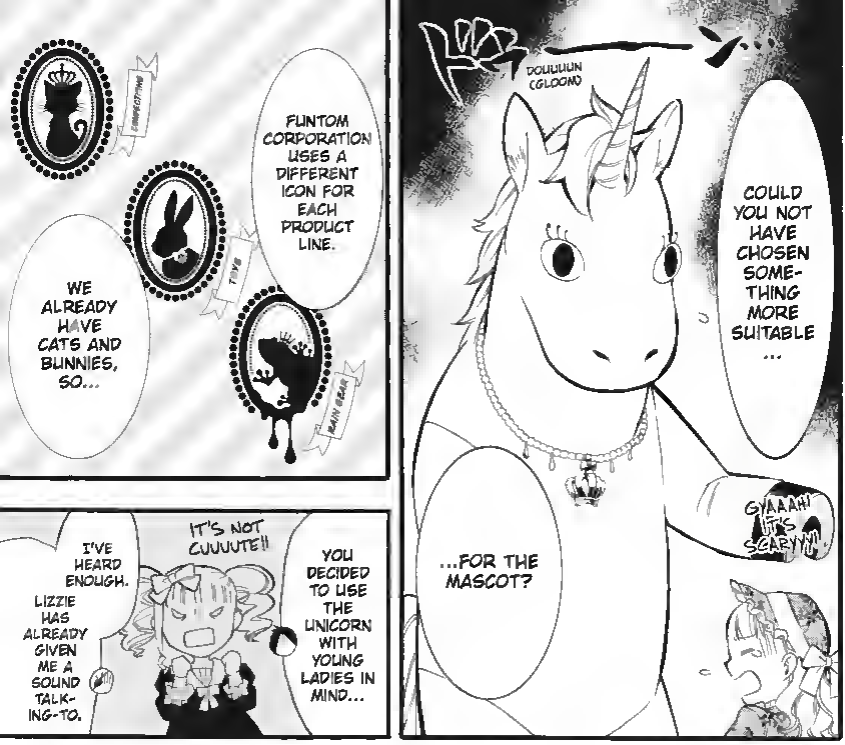

HARRODS STORES
HARRODS STORES
HARRODS STORES

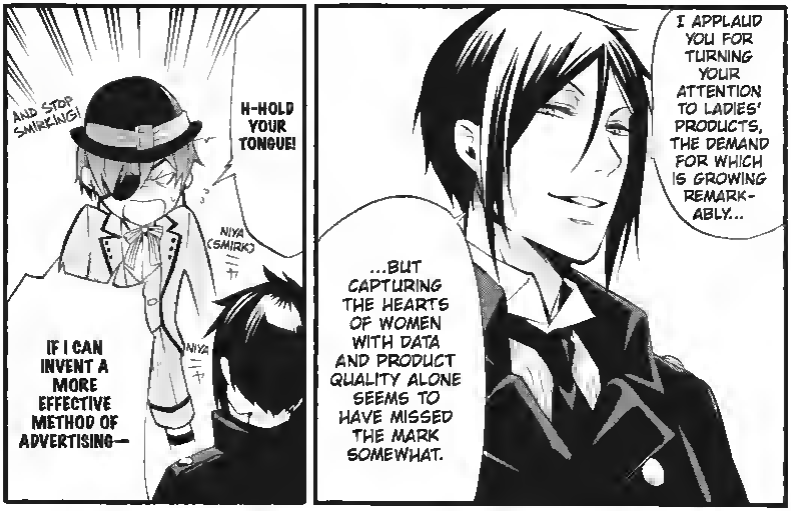
ZAWA
ZAWA (LITTER)

Since 188
THIS IS A NEW FUNTOM PRODUCT ~!
WON'T YOU TRY THIS WONDERFUL NEW PERFUME FOR YOUNG LADIES~?

WHY IS SHE PASSING THEM OUT TO MEN!!?
I WILL HAVE A WORD WITH THE MANAGER.
BUT THAT ASIDE ...
WE DON'T NEED THEM...!!


さ SA さ SA さ SA さ SA さ SA さっっ
SA (SHIF)
YAYH!
PLEASE TAKE A SAMPLE WITH YOU!

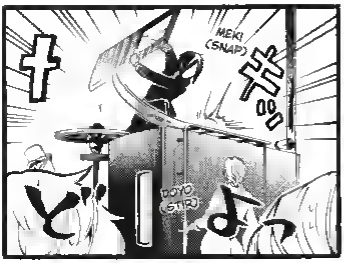

DOUUUUN (GLOOM)
COULD YOU NOT HAVE CHOSEN SOMETHING MORE SUITABLE...
GYAAAH! IT'S SCARY!!
...FOR THE MASCOT?
FUNTOM CORPORATION USES A DIFFERENT ICON FOR EACH PRODUCT LINE.
SWEETS
TOYS
HAIR WEAR
WE ALREADY HAVE CATS AND BUNNIES, SO...
YOU DECIDED TO USE THE UNICORN WITH YOUNG LADIES IN MIND...
IT'S NOT CUUUUTE!!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
LIZZIE HAS ALREADY GIVEN ME A SOUND TALKING-TO.


I APPLAUD YOU FOR TURNING YOUR ATTENTION TO LADIES' PRODUCTS, THE DEMAND FOR WHICH IS GROWING REMARKABLY...
...BUT CAPTURING THE HEARTS OF WOMEN WITH DATA AND PRODUCT QUALITY ALONE SEEMS TO HAVE MISSED THE MARK SOMEWHAT.
H-HOLD YOUR TONGUE!
AND STOP SMIRKING!
NIYA (SMIRK)
NIYA
IF I CAN INVENT A MORE EFFECTIVE METHOD OF ADVERTISING—

ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA
ざわざわ
DA (DASH)
WH-WHAT WAS THAT!?
!?
BASHAAAN (CRASH)
KYAAAAH!!!

SOME-ONE GET THEM OUT OF THERE!
ARE THEY ALL RIGHT?
NO ONE'S COMING OUT.
THE HORSES SUDDENLY —!

TAKE CARE OF THE YOUNG MASTER!
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOIN' !?
DA



WAH THAT'S IRENE THE OPERA
MY, MY. WHY, MISS IRENE DIAZ.*
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THAT DINNER PARTY OF OURS.
M-MY PLEASURE.
THANK YOU FOR INVITING US TONIGHT.
E DIAZ
SINGER

*THE FAMOUS OPERA SINGER WHO APPEARED IN VOLUMES 9 THROUGH 11

AND YOU ARE ...?

GATA (RATTLE)
W-WOULD YOU MIND SAVING YOUR CONVERSATION FOR LATER?
OH! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

NEW!
PON (SMACK)
...AH!
NOW I UNDERSTAND!

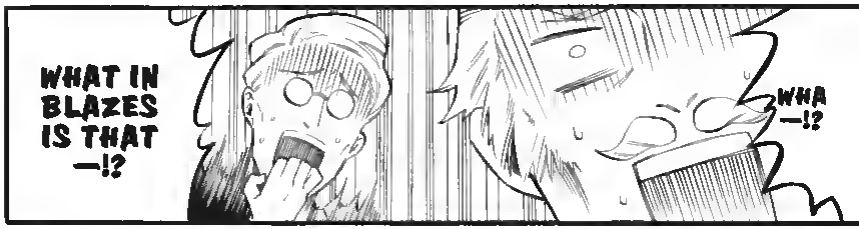
OWW..
I'M JULIUS PITTMAN, A HAYMARKET ACTOR.

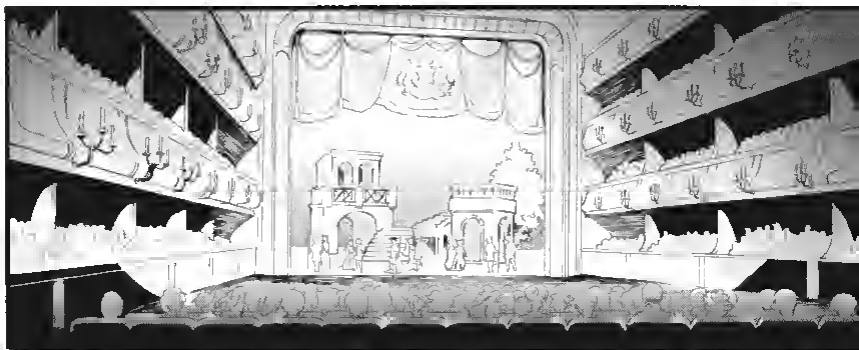
I'LL BE LATE FOR THE CURTAIN CALL!
AND IF THE PUBLIC DISCOVERS THAT I WAS WITH SOMEONE FROM A RIVAL THEATRE .....

BY THE WAY, WERE YOU NOT HEADED SOMEWHERE?
HA (GASP)
YES, I WAS.

I HAVE A SUGGESTION.
HEH
HEYYY, ISN'T IRENE HERE YET!?
BUT THERE'S STILL THE ISSUE OF TIME...
DO
STOMP!
NN?
WITHOUT HER, WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL THE SHOW...
...AND WHEN SO MANY OF OUR SPONSORS ARE IN ATTEN-DANCE!
PLEASE DO CALM DOWN.
WE'LL JUST HAVE JULIET MAKE HER ENTRANCE A BIT LATER THAN SCRIPTED...

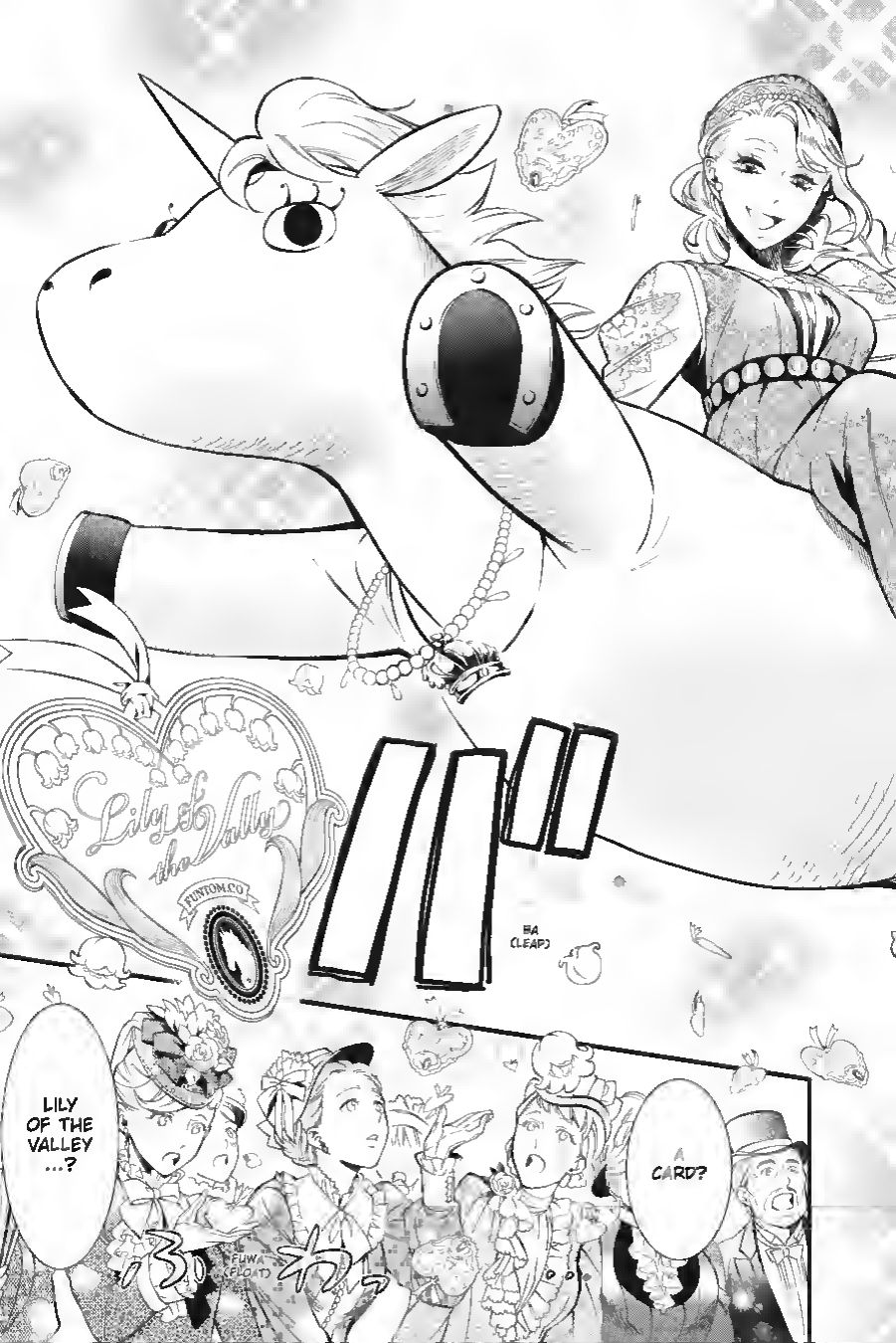
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
(SIDE-TO-SIDE)


WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT —!?
WHA —!?



WHEN IS THIS MASKED BALL GOING TO END?
What should we do, Romeo?
Aww, c'mon. We've already danced three times.
ROMEO
MERCUTIO
Don't ask me. I don't wanna hear it.
extend!
PLEASE COME QUICK, IRENE!
ぎゅっ
GYU (SQUEEZE)
ざわ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
We'll lose the audience's attention any minute now.
ざわ…
ZAWA
NO—
BA (WHIP)
IS IT A BIRD!?
A FAIRY!?
HA (GASP)
H-HEY, WHAT IS THAT!?

IT'S JULIET ~!!


Lily of the Valley
FUNTOM.CO
HA
(LEAP)
LILY OF THE VALLEY ...?
FUWA
(FLOAT)
A CARD?

WHAT LOVELY STAGING!
WHAT A WONDERFUL SCENT.
UWAH ...
I DO HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE MY LATE ARRIVAL, MILORD.
I AM JULIET, DAUGHTER OF LORD CAPULET.
YOU ARE A GODDESS, WITHOUT DOUBT!
A SWEET FRAGRANCE... AND A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE ON THE BACK OF A UNICORN.
AAH...

WAA! (CHEER)
ちゅっ♡
CHU (KISS)
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME HERE...
...MISTER UNICORN. ♡
SU (SWIP)
DO (STONE)
DO
DO
DO
NN?
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE!?
HE STILL HASN'T COME BACK...
HARRODS STORE
HARROD

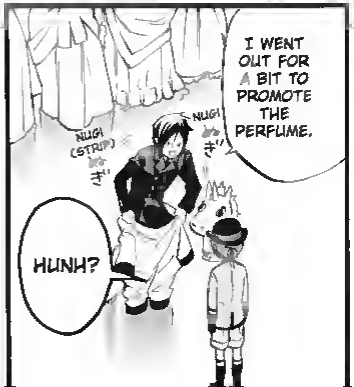
FUNTOM'S PERFUME!
THERE IT IS!!
A BOTTLE OF FUNTOM'S PERFUME, PLEASE!
ME TOO! ME TOOOO!
ドドド

WHY IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT!?
DEEEEEN (BAAAM)
ー
ん

HAAH..
SEBASTIAN!
HOW WRETCHEDLY YOU ARE YELPING...

...WAIT.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEING DOING ALL THIS—

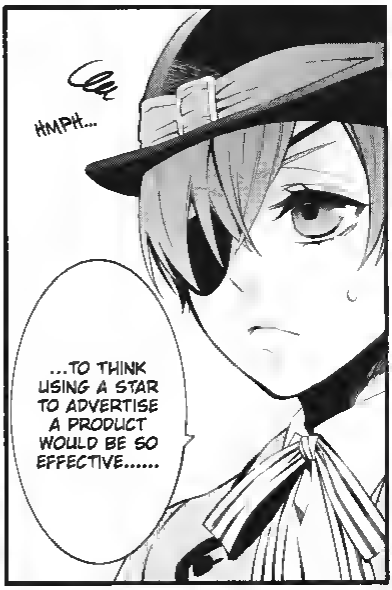
...AND I MADE A DEAL WITH HER IN EXCHANGE FOR MY AID.
KY
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED THE VOICE. IT BELONGED TO MISS IRENE DIAZ...
THE SCREAM YOU HEARD.

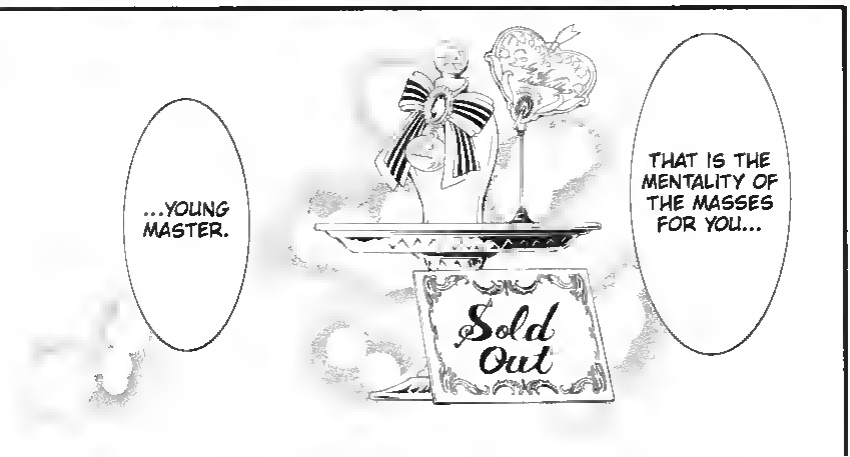

I WENT OUT FOR A BIT TO PROMOTE THE PERFUME.
NUGI (STRIP)
NUGI
HUNH?

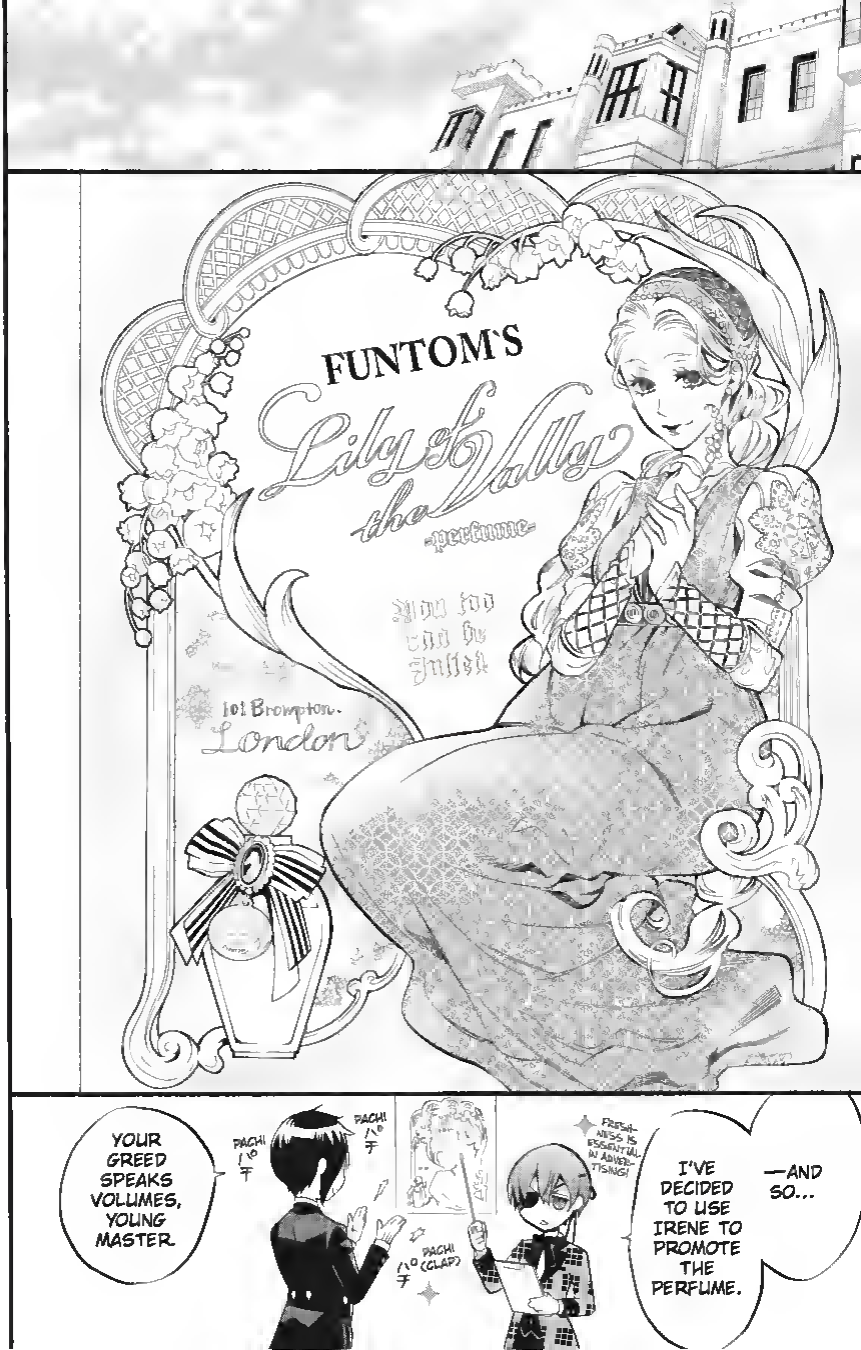
I AM BUTLER TO THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY—
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE UP TO ...?
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING I CAN DOUBLE THE SALES OF A NEW PRODUCT.

STILL...
I SUPPOSE I WON'T HAVE TO SPEND MORE ON ADVERTISE-MENTS.
—WELL.

HEH.


HMPH...
...TO THINK USING A STAR TO ADVERTISE A PRODUCT WOULD BE SO EFFECTIVE.....


...YOUNG MASTER.
Sold Out
THAT IS THE MENTALITY OF THE MASSES FOR YOU...


FUNTOM'S
Lily of the Valley
-perfume-
You too can be stylish
101 Brompton. London
—AND SO...
I'VE DECIDED TO USE IRENE TO PROMOTE THE PERFUME.
FRESHNESS IS ESSENTIAL IN ADVERTISING!
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
PACHI
YOUR GREED SPEAKS VOLUMES, YOUNG MASTER.

HAT

Black Butler

CHAPTER 86

At night : The Butler, On Board

バウ
(BARK)
バウッ
BAU
ドドッ
DODO
ドドドッ
DODODO
(GALLOP)

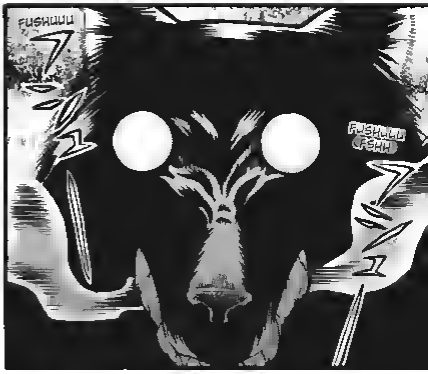
LET'S GO.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!! THIS IS...
THE HUNT'S MORE WORTHWHILE WHEN THE FOX IS SLY.
YAAN
YAAN KWOOF
DAMN, IT RAN INTO THE FOREST.
...THE CURSED FOREST...
...ISN'T IT!?
GYUA GOAN
GYUA
IT'S AN OLD WIVES' TALE. SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN SUCH THINGS!?
O-OF COURSE NOT!

WAH!
BEGONE FROM THIS PLACE!!
JAMA (JANGLE)
THIS FOREST IS PROTECTED BY WERE-WOLVES!
YOU SHALL BE CURSED IF THEY FIND YOU!!

FOOOOOLS!!
DODO
DODO
WHAT'S WITH THAT HAG!?
SHE'S SCARY.
SHE MUST BE SENILE.
WHO KNOWS. LET'S HURRY.
SURE
WHERE'S THE FOX?
WAN
UUU
UUUUU
WAN
OH-HOH.
FOUND 'EM!
WAN
UUU (GRRR)
WAN (WOOF)
WAN
WAN
HA (GASP)
WHY ARE THEY SNARLING ...?

R
NU
@LOOM@

UWAAAAAH!!
U...


FUSHUUU
FUSHUUU
FSHH

HOW SHOULD I KNOW!!?
DODODO
DODODO (GALLOP)
WH-WHAT WAS THAT!?

HFF...
HFF...
HFF...
W-WAS THAT—
WERE-WOLF ...?
HERR REINALD!
BIKU (JUMP)
WEL-COME BACK.
OH, IT'S JUST YOU!
NEIGH...
HOW WAS THE HUNT?
OH?

AH .....
KAKU (SWAY)
HERR REINALD. YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING.
EH?
HERR REINALD !?
DOSA- (THUD)
BUKU (SWELL)
BUKU
WH- WHAT IS THIS !?
BUKU
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG!? GET AHOLD OF YOUR-SELF!
GUI (YANK)
EEP ...!

REINALD! WAKE UP!
!!
HERR BRIEGEL!
YOUR FACE IS...!!
EH!?
GYAAAAAA
EEK...
DOSA
OOOOOOOO!

GATAN
GATAN
YOU ARE STRESSING THE WRONG SYLLABLES.
THAT WILL NEVER DO.

GATAN
GATAN (GATHUNK)
IHHI FUROY-EH MIHHI JII KENEN TSURERU NEN.
("I AM PLEASED TO MEET YOU.")

SFX: GATAN GATAN
YOU SIMPLY LACK DISCIPLINE.
HAAH...
ARGH, I GIVE UP. I'M FEELING SICK!
READING IN A TRAIN MAKES ME...
GORON (ROLL)
ICH...

BEING ABLE TO READ IT IS ENOUGH.
GERMAN PRONUNCIATION IS IMPOSSIBLE.
...YOU WILL BE GOING THERE?
TODAY'S SWEETS
Coffee and walnut cake
GERMANY?
ONE WEEK AGO
SHE HAS ORDERED YOU, HER "WATCH-DOG," TO GO IN PERSON?
I MUST INVESTI-GATE A NUMBER OF INEX-PLICABLE FATAL INCIDENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED ...
YES.
...BY ORDER OF HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.
THE DUTY OF THE PHANTOM-HIVE HOUSE IS TO POLICE THE UNDER-WORLD OF GREAT BRITAIN
SO WHY MUST I BE SENT ALL THE WAY TO GER-MANY!?
PASA (TOSS)

MY, DEAR BOY...
Germany
KASA (RUSTLE)
THERE HAVE BEEN A SUCCESSION OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS IN SOUTHERN GERMANY.
I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED.
I WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IF AN EPIDEMIC HAS BROKEN OUT, BUT NEITHER THE KAISER, NOR THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAVE GIVEN ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER.
GERMANY IS HOME TO MY LATE HUSBAND AND MOTHER. MANY OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS RESIDE THERE.
I AM TOLD THOSE OF SOUND BODY AND MIND BECOME SUDDENLY DEFORMED AND THEN EXPIRE.

MOGU CHLINCHO
もぐ
I'VE LEFT THE COUNTRY ONCE BEFORE TO INVESTIGATE AN INCIDENT ...
もぐ
MOGU
...BUT I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHY I'M BEING DISPATCHED FOR THIS BUSINESS.
SHE CANNOT DISPATCH AN ENVOY WITHOUT A FORMAL ANSWER FROM THE GERMANS ...
...SO SHE HAS ASSIGNED THAT DUTY TO YOU INSTEAD, YOUNG MASTER ...

WHY NOT ASK FOR A MORE DEFINITIVE REASON?
I KNOW SHE'LL DODGE THE QUESTION.
THE DOG'S DUTY IS TO START RUNNING GLEEFULLY WHEN THE MASTER THROWS HIM A BONE, AFTER ALL.

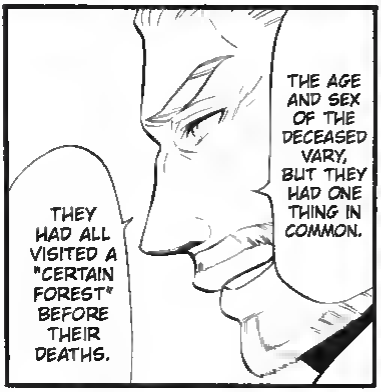
PARTICULARLY SINCE I INHERITED *HIM* FROM THE PREVIOUS EARL.
PERHAPS SHE IS PLACING HER FAITH IN THAT...
THE UNDERWORLD INTELLIGENCE NETWORK OF THE PHANTOMHIVE HOUSE OPERATES FROM EUROPE TO ASIA.

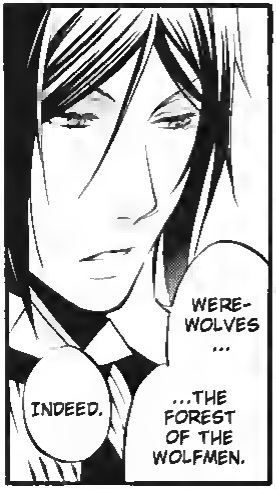
AS YOU WISH, SIR.
KACHA (CLINK)
GET IN TOUCH WITH THE OLD MAN, WILL YOU?
I'LL HAVE CHLAUS PAY HIM A VISIT.
I DON'T MIND AT ALL!
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG, CHLAUS.
I DO HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE THE ABRUPT INVITATION.
YOUR BUTLER IS TRULY THE MOST SURPRISING CREATURE!
PLEASE PARDON MY INTERRUPTION EARLIER.
JUUU (SIZZLE)
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE
WHOA!?
HA HA HA!!
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE SUDDENLY APPEARED AS I WAS ENJOYING A SAUNA IN FINLAND.

LET ME GIVE YOU THE ACCOUNT OF MY TRIP TO GERMANY THAT YOU DESIRE.
WELL, NOW.
AN OLD MAN ONLY HAS TRAVELLING TO AMUSE HIM, YOU SEE.
HA HA!
IT WAS CONVENIENT THAT YOUR DESTINATION WAS NEAR GERMANY.
LAST TIME, YOU WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.
...WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!
THERE WERE NO DELICIOUS MEALS TO BE HAD!
SO I WAS COMPELLED TO HEAD FOR THE LOCATION OF THE INCIDENTS ...
HOHH?
...BUT HE BRUSHED ME OFF, SAYING HE WAS TOO BUSY.
I WENT TO SEE HIM SOON AFTER MY ARRIVAL...
SO WHEN I ASKED WHAT HAD CAUSED THE DEATHS, EVERY LAST PERSON SAID...
AND THE DECEASED HAD NO CHRONIC ILLNESSES, NOR HAD THEY SUFFERED ANY INJURIES.
...BUT THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.
I VISITED THE VILLAGES AND RESIDENCES WHERE THE FATALITIES HAD OCCURRED...

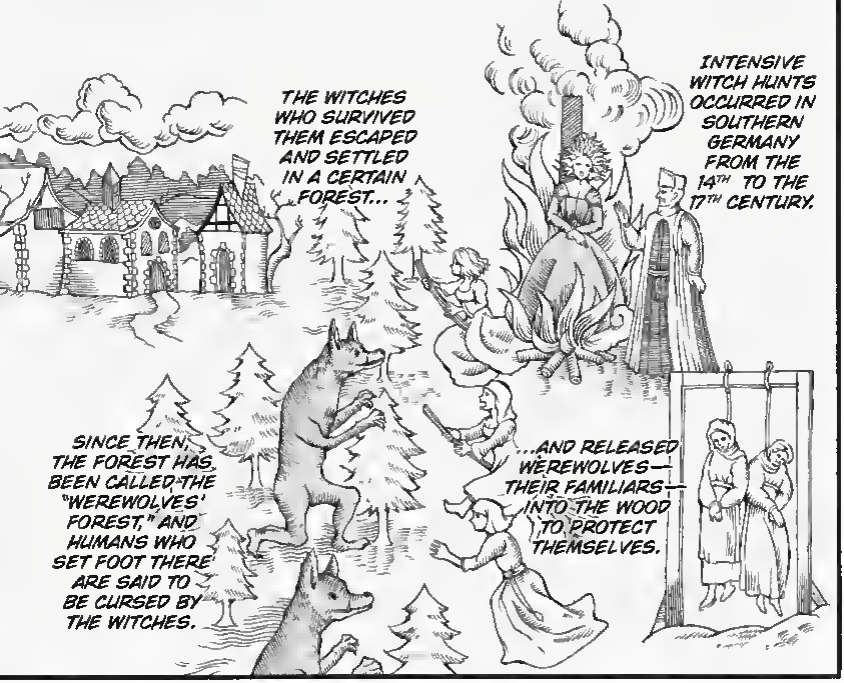
THE WITCH'S CURSE?

"THE WITCH'S CURSE" HAD KILLED THEM ALL.


THE AGE AND SEX OF THE DECEASED VARY, BUT THEY HAD ONE THING IN COMMON.
THEY HAD ALL VISITED A "CERTAIN FOREST" BEFORE THEIR DEATHS.

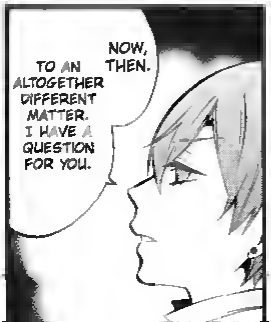

WERE-WOLVES ...
...THE FOREST OF THE WOLFMEN.
INDEED.

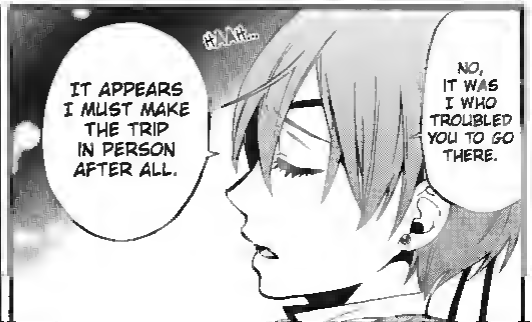
"THE WERE-WOLVES' FOREST."
IT'S A SUPERNATURAL WOOD THAT THE LOCALS HAVE DEEMED FORBIDDEN LAND.


THE WITCHES WHO SURVIVED THEM ESCAPED AND SETTLED IN A CERTAIN FOREST...
INTENSIVE WITCH HUNTS OCCURRED IN SOUTHERN GERMANY FROM THE 14TH TO THE 17TH CENTURY.
...AND RELEASED WEREWOLVES—THEIR FAMILIARS—INTO THE WOOD TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.
SINCE THEN, THE FOREST HAS BEEN CALLED THE "WEREWOLVES' FOREST," AND HUMANS WHO SET FOOT THERE ARE SAID TO BE CURSED BY THE WITCHES.

HA HA HA!
I KNEW YOU WOULD SAY SO!
I DO APOLOGISE. THIS IS THE ONLY INFORMATION I WAS ABLE TO COME BY.

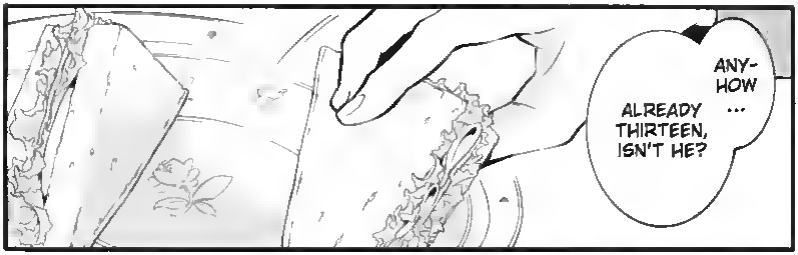
NON-SENSE!
SO HUMANS ARE BEING KILLED BY A CURSE!?

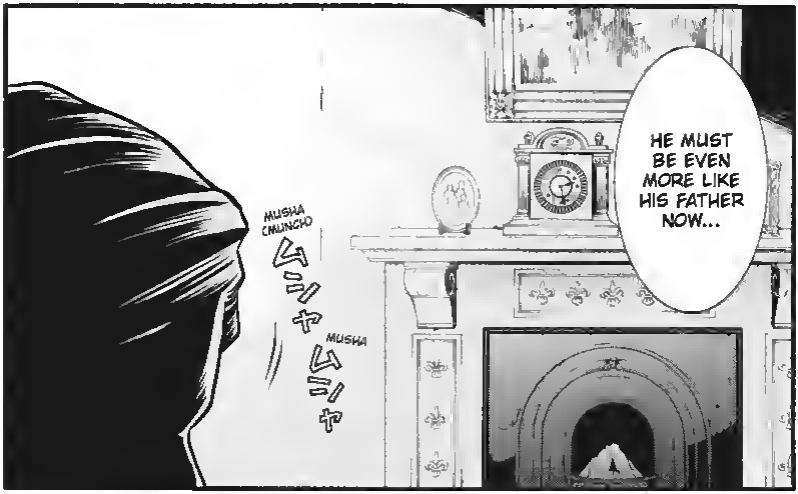

NOW, THEN.
TO AN ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT MATTER. I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.


HWAH...
IT APPEARS I MUST MAKE THE TRIP IN PERSON AFTER ALL.
NO, IT WAS I WHO TROUBLED YOU TO GO THERE.

HMM...
WE RARELY INTERFERED IN EACH OTHER'S AFFAIRS...
...AND VINCENT WAS THE FIRST TO GET TO KNOW THE UNDER-TAKER.
I WANT INFORMATION ON HIM... ANYTHING YOU CAN GIVE ME.
YOU MUST KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM THAN I DO. YOU ALREADY KNEW HIM FROM WHEN HE AND THE PREVIOUS EARL WERE ACQUAINT-ED.
THE UNDERTAKER HAS VANISHED.
OH-HOH. HAS HE NOW?
...SINCE THE TWO MET DURING THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOL DAYS.
HE ALONE MUST HAVE KNOWN VINCENT BEFORE THE UNDERTAKER ...
GERMANY IS YOUR DESTINA-TION, AFTER ALL.
THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD VISIT THAT GENTLEMAN IN ADDITION TO YOUR MISSION...

YES, MY LORD.
WOO THE BEAUTY WELL, JUNIOR.
WELL PUT, BUT ...
...GERMAN BEAUTIES... NO, FORMER BEAUTIES... ARE MADE OF TOUGH, VIRTUOUS STUFF.
SEBAS-TIAN, SEE TO THE TICKETS.
I CAN ONLY PRAY HE IS IN EXCELLENT SPIRITS BY THE TIME I CALL ON HIM.
FATHER AND SON ALIKE!
THEY BRING NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
HASU (FWA)
はぅ?
GOOD GRIEF!
AAAAGH!


ANY-
HOW
...
ALREADY
THIRTEEN,
ISN'T HE?


HE MUST
BE EVEN
MORE LIKE
HIS FATHER
NOW...
MUSHA
CHUNCHO
ムニャ
ムニャ
MUSHA

SWEET
SHOP

Black Butler

Chapter 87

At midnight : The Butler, Making Enquiries

GERMANY
The outskirts of Nuremberg

HEY— SEBASTIAN WHAT LANGUAGE ARE THEY SPEAKING?
EAST FRANCONIAN.
IT IS A SOUTHERN GERMAN DIALECT

○□▽◎~□○?
◇●▼☆◎□☆○■!

I CAN'T EVEN FOLLOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING!
THE DIALECT IS TOO STRONG! MY STUDIES WERE PRACTICALLY USELESS!!
PFFT.
THE FUNDAMENTALS ARE VITAL IN EVERYTHING, YOUNG MASTER.

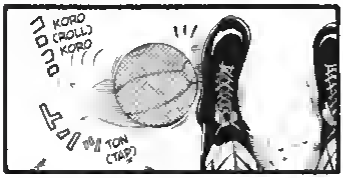
DUN MATTER HOW MUCH GOLD YOU GOT, NO'S A NO.
...SO HE SAYS.
ACH, I AIN'T GONNA GO BITE IT FROM THE WITCH'S CURSE. NO THANKS.
SO... WHAT'S HE SAYING?
I SURE DID!
THEY LOOKED SOMETHIN' AWFUL.
YOU DON'T NEED TRANSLATE THE DIALECT INTO YOUR INTERPRETATION!
HAS HE SEEN AN ACCURSED HUMAN?
HAVE YOU SEEN ONE OF THESE CURSED HUMANS?
ONE DIED RIGHT OFF. THE OTHER LIVED, BUT WORD HAS IT HE WENT NUTS FROM THE SHOCK
AND THEIR SKIN LOOKED LIKE IT'D MELTED INTO A THICK MUD.
THEIR FACES WERE SWOLLEN TO TWICE THE NORMAL SIZE.

THE OTHER ONE SURVIVED?
YEP.
HE WAS ALL SHOOK UP WITH FEAR...
...AND KEPT SCREAMIN'...
...“THE WOLFMAN'S COMING!”
SO WHERE IS HE NOW?
HE'S THE ELDEST SON OF THE BRIEGEL FAMILY, RICH FOLK WHO LIVE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THIS VILLAGE...
...BUT HE'S GONE NOW
THE GOVERNMENT CAME 'N' TOOK HIM AWAY TO SOME BIG HOSPITAL IN CASE WHATEVER HE HAD CAUGHT...
...AND THEY TOOK THE DEAD 'UN AWAY TOO...
?
THERE IS A SURVIVOR...
...BUT HE WAS INTENSELY CONFUSED AND KEPT REPEATING “THE WOLFMAN'S COMING.”

!
SO HE'S SEEN THE WOLFMAN?
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOOK HIM AWAY TO A MAJOR INSTITUTION ALONG WITH THE OTHER VICTIM.
WILL YOU SEARCH ALL THE HOSPITALS IN THIS COUNTRY?
NO NEED.
THERE ISN'T ANY POINT IN SPEAKING TO A MADMAN.
WE SHOULD GO AT ONCE TO THIS "WEREWOLVES' FOREST" OURSELVES.
HOWEVER ...
...THE MAN REFUSES TO TAKE US IN HIS CARRIAGE NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE OFFER.
THEN ASK HIM...
...HOW MUCH THE CARRIAGE COSTS.

ざわ
ZAWA
ZAWA (CHATTER)
AH HA HA
ざわ
WAAAA (YELL)

BUT I WONDER WHY THE YOUNG MASTER BROUGHT US SERVANTS WITH HIM?
WHY, INDEED!
.....


KORO (ROLL) KORO
TON (TAP)

EXCUSE MEEE! PLEASE THROW US THE BALL
SURE!

AAARGH, MY ASS HURRRTS.
BALDO, THAT'S INDECENT, IT IS!
BUT I'VE BEEN SITTING FOR MORE THAN A WHOLE DAY!

SORRY, SORRY!
WAAA
HERE YOU GO!
BUN (FLING)
GYUN (WHIZ)
AUGH!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND GERMAN?
—ASKS DONNE.
AH...
YEP.
A LITTLE.
EVERY-ONE.
WE HAVE SECURED A CARRIAGE.
LOAD THE LUGGAGE ONTO IT, IF YOU WOULD.

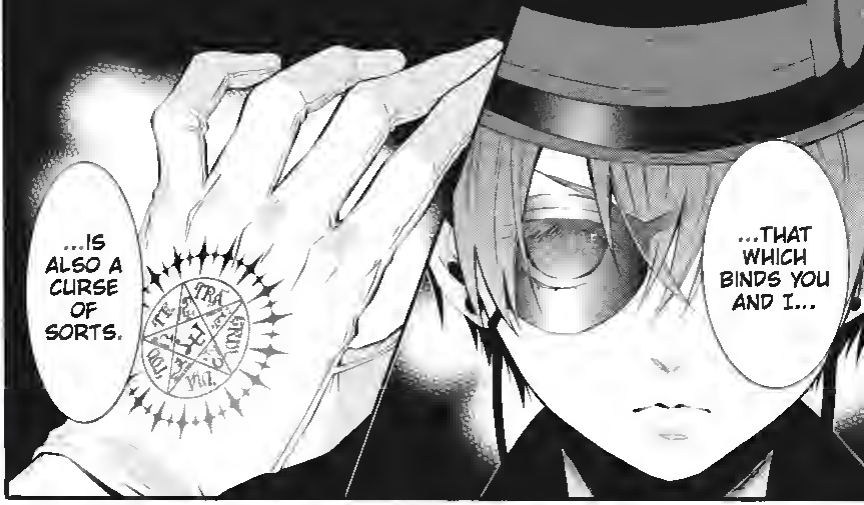
GARA (RATTLE)
ガラ
GARA
ガラ…

S-SO THIS IS THE WERE-WOLVES' FOREST.
GARA
ガラ
IT'S CREEPY-YYYYY!
GARA
ガラ
MAN, I GET WHY PEOPLE SAY IT'S CURSED...
GARA
ガラ

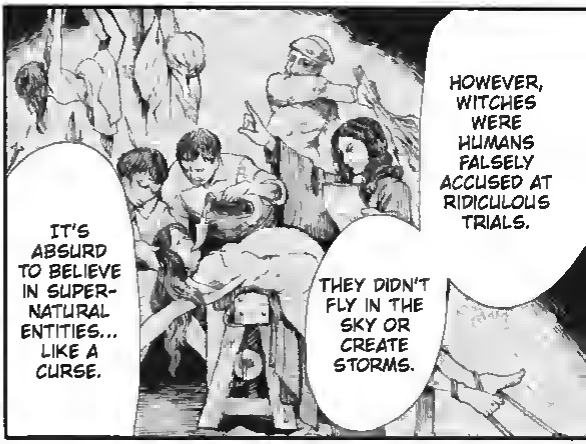
KURU
クル…
KURU (SPIN)
クル
THE COMPASS HAS BEGUN TO DRIFT.

E-EAGA (FAR)
SAGA (CART)
ギャア
ギャア
GYA
BERU

GOTO (CLUNK)
ゴトッ
GOTO
ゴトゴト
IT MAY JUST BE THAT MINERAL RESOURCES ARE BURIED AROUND HERE.
IT MAY JUST AS EASILY BE...
...A CURSE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE—
IT AMUSES ME THAT YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN CURSES...
...WHEN YOU HAVE A DEVIL FOR A SERVANT AND HAVE COME EYE-TO-EYE WITH GRIM REAPERS.
MORE OVER...


...THAT WHICH BINDS YOU AND I...
...IS ALSO A CURSE OF SORTS.

GOTO (CLUNK)
ゴ"ト
...THAT...
GOTO ト
...IS WHY...
I FEEL...
HEH
WELL, NOW. I WONDER.

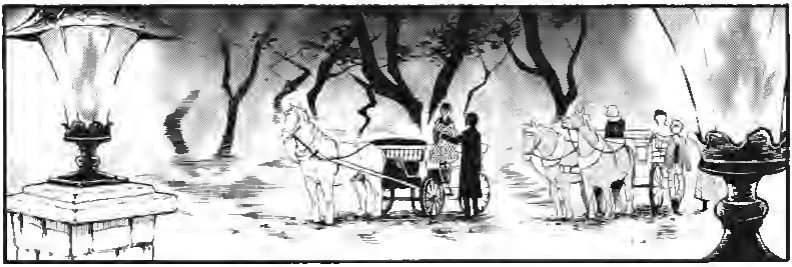

HOWEVER, WITCHES WERE HUMANS FALSELY ACCUSED AT RIDICULOUS TRIALS.
THEY DIDN'T FLY IN THE SKY OR CREATE STORMS.
IT'S ABSURD TO BELIEVE IN SUPER-NATURAL ENTITIES... LIKE A CURSE.

HAH!
DID THEY SUMMON YOU TO THE WITCHES' SABBATH AND WORSHIP YOU?

カリ
GARK
YES.
I HAVE MET THOSE WHO WENT BY THAT MONIKER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BEFORE
BY THE WAY, HAVE EVER YOU MET A REAL WITCH?
ガラ
GARA (RATTLE)

...OFFERING US THEIR SOULS IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR DESIRES.
ONE CANNOT SUMMON US DEVILS WITHOUT THAT DEGREE OF DETERMINATION.
SUMMONING DEVILS AND WORSHIPPING THEM—
I DO NOT BELIEVE SABBATHS WERE HELD FOR THAT PURPOSE.
GOTO
...ARE YOU—
YES?
GOTO
.....NOTHING.
—THEY WERE TIMES OF SOCIAL INTERACTION FOR DEPRAVED ADULTS...
...WHO WISHED TO ESCAPE REALITY BY SINKING INTO DEBAUCHERY...
OHHOH.

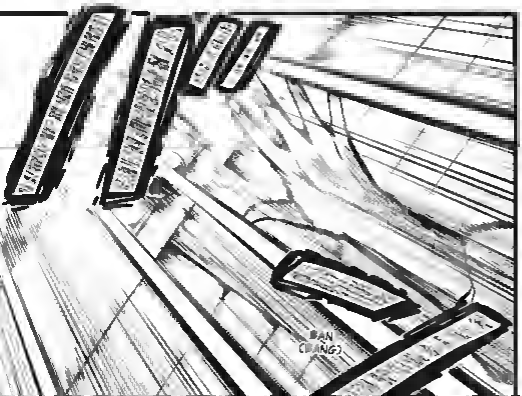
YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE SEE FOR YOURSELF.
THERE ARE BUILDINGS OVER THERE.



SO THERE REALLY WAS A VILLAGE IN THIS FOREST...

THE HOUSES HAVE BEEN KEPT UP.
I AM CERTAIN PEOPLE DO LIVE HERE.

NO ONE'S AROUND ...
IS IT ABAN-DONED?
NO.


BAN (BANG)

HEYYY!
IS ANYBODY HEEE—

INTRUDERS!!
KAN (CLANG)
KAN
KAN
KAN

EVERY-
BODY,
COME
OUT AND
FIGHT!!

TALK ABOUT A WARM WEL-COME.
WHO ARE YOU BASTARDS!?
JARA (JANGLE)
HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR WAY HERE!?
...HOW ANCIENT ARE THEIR CLOTHES!?
FURTHER-MORE...
THE VILLAGE RESIDENTS ARE ALL WOMEN?

WE MEAN NO HARM.
WE BEG AN AUDIENCE WITH YOUR LIEGE LORD.
WHAT?
TELL THEM WE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO THEIR LORD.
YES, SIR.
COULD THEY BE...
...TARGETING THE HONOURABLE SULLIVAN!?
ZAWA
ざわ
ざわ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
OUR LIEGE?
YOU VIL-LAINS...
...MUST BE BETRAYERS —!!
SULLIVAN?
HEY, WHAT ARE THEY—
QUIET!!

DEATH TO BETRAY-ERS!!
DEATH TO BETRAY-ERS!!
WA (WHOOP)
WE'RE NOT—
B-BETRAY-ERS!?
WE WILL SPARE NONE OF YOUR ILK!
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE ALIVE!!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?

どよっ…
DOYO (STIR)
TH—
ZA (STEP)
THE HONOUR-ABLE SULLIVAN!
ZA
ZA
WE APOLOGISE FOR LETTING INTRUDERS ENTER THE VILLAGE!
ARE YOU…
…THE HONOURABLE SULLIVAN, THE LIEGE LORD?
INDEED.
ZA

To be continued in Black Butler 19

Black Butler
黒執事

Downstairs

Wakana Haduki
7
Saito Torino
Tsuki Sorano
Chiaki Nagaoka
Asakura
*
Takeshi Kuma
*
Yana Toboso

Adviser
Rico Murakami

Special thanks to You!

Translation Notes

Inside Front and Back Covers

Youkai

Youkai is a word for supernatural creatures found in Japanese folklore

Karasu tengu

Sebastian is a *karasu tengu*, a mountain *youkai* usually portrayed with black wings, a red face, and a long nose, and dressed like a mountain priest

Youko

The Undertaker is a *youko*, or fox *youkai*. *Youko* with multiple tails are called *o-saki*. Their tails are said to be their sources of power, so the more tails, the stronger the *youkai*

Karakasa kouzou

Finny is a *karakasa kozou*. Old umbrellas turn into this *youkai*, and its distinguishing feature is the one leg it hops on

Tanuki

Mey-Rin is a *tanuki*, or raccoon dog *youkai*, believed to be able to take the form of other beings

Kappa

Baldo is a *kappa*, a water spirit that looks like child, is green or red all over, has a plate on its head, a tortoise shell on its back, and webbed hands and feet

Shrine maiden

Ciel is dressed like a shrine maiden. He's holding an *oonusa*, which is used for purification during Shinto rituals

Page 90

Fortnum & Mason's Royal Blend

First blended for King Edward VII in 1902, this blended tea features leaves from Ceylon and Assam

Page 105

Micah Clarke

A novel by Arthur Conan Doyle published in 1889 (three years after the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes). This historical novel follows the titular character as he seeks adventure and comes of age. The story takes place during the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685 (an attempt to overthrow the then-King of England, James II).

Page 106

Cherry lips and jap desserts

Two different kinds of old fashioned English candy. The former were scented, cherry-flavoured jelly candies, while the latter were cubes of coconut with a sweet, flavoured coating.

Page 140

"Pleased to meet you" in German

Ciel is trying to say "Ich freue mich, sie kennen zu lernen."

Page 172

Sieglinde

In Richard Wagner's famous three act opera, *The Valkyrie*, which is itself the second of four operas in *The Ring of Nibelung* cycle, Sieglinde is the mother of the legendary hero of Norse mythology, Siegfried.

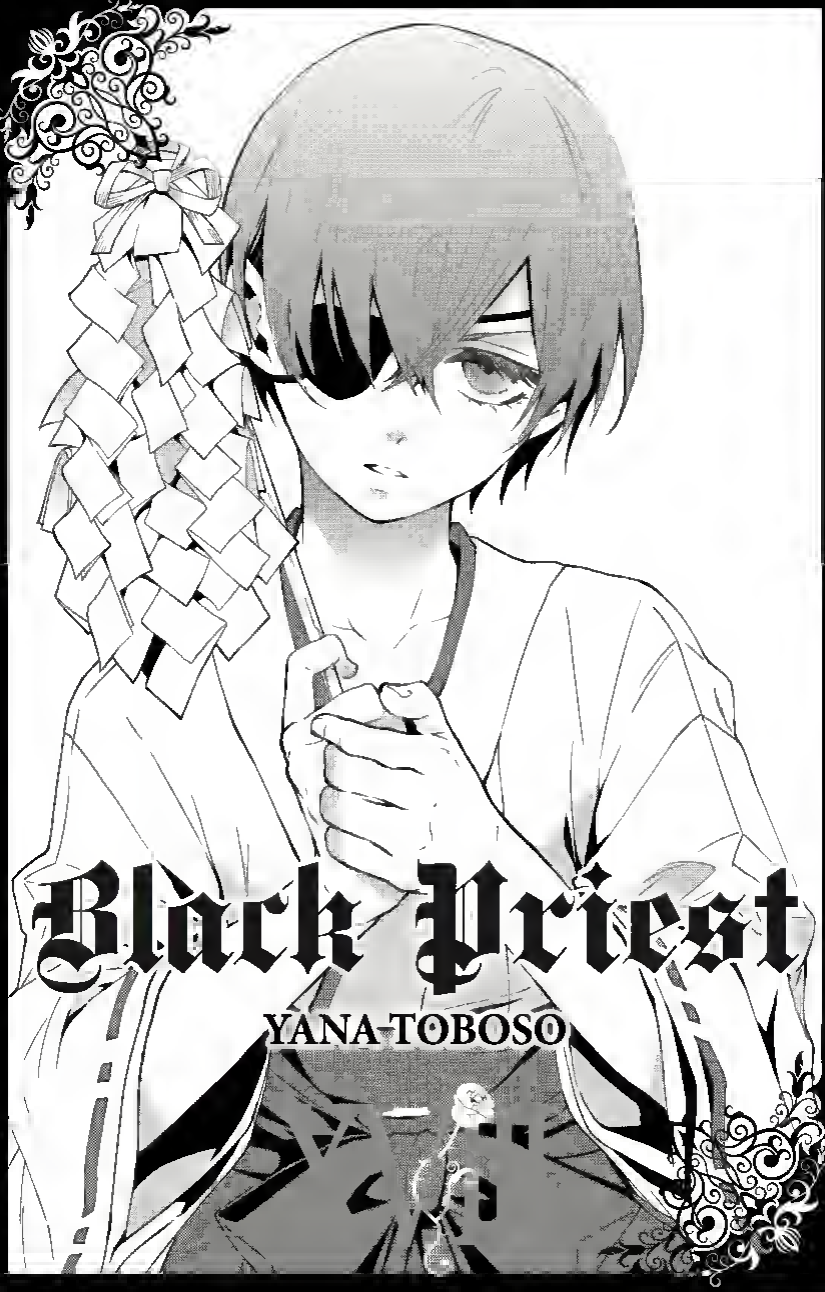
Yana Toboso

Author's note

The third season of the ***Black Butler*** anime is to go into production after the live-action movie, an exhibition of my manuscripts is to be held, and multiple artbooks are planned for publication too.

I don't quite know what to do with myself since 2014 is full of happy occurrences, so I'll just draw my manga for now.

And that's how things stand in Volume 18, where a new arc finally begins.


Black Priest
YANA TOBOSO

A boy-meets-monster story in which Ciel, heir to a Shinto shrine where evil youkai had been sealed away a thousand years ago, inadvertently destroys the shrine—releasing all the youkai trapped within—and then proceeds to reconcile/battle with the creatures he's set free!

...or something.

BLACK BUTLER 18

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura • Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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